WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 9, NO. 12 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | APRIL 1999

"Be it never forgotten that the cure for evil and disorder is more liberty, not suppression." A. Berkman

Businesses Attack Graffiti

Pat Tassoni

The latest step in the Olympia Downtown Association's plan to clean up the area and purge the downtown of what they consider undesirable elements (homeless and youth) has been unveiled lately. The ODA, in conjunction with the city, mandated that local businesses not allow art on their walls. This is part of a "beautify Olympia" campaign, where the ODA has unilaterally declared the city to be a "graffiti-free zone." Previously, local businesses had the option of whether or not to allow street art, or "Graffiti" to remain on the outer walls of their businesses on "Free Walls" At the end of March, the free walls in Olympia, located in the alleys of Thekla, The Arrowspace, and The Midnight Sun, were painted over to remain blank.

Tagging happens, randomly and anonymously, just as speeding does. The free walls encourage thought, planning and open painting. Condemning it all is wrong.

In any given year in the US, nearly all of youth are NOT arrested. Yet in many people's minds the statement, "Youth commit relatively more crime" becomes twisted into "Youth commit most of the crime" or, most insidiously, "Most youth are criminals." In a society where such thinking is pervasive (thanks to the corporate media which chooses to give voice to "experts" without mentioning their political agendas), it is only a short seemingly logical leap into the habit of viewing all youth as suspect. And then the laws follow that criminalize their generation; and their cultural signatures become targets for repression.

A meeting happened between community members and representatives of the ODA after the apparently irreversible decision was made by the ODA to close down the free walls. At the meeting were citizens, artists, and business owners who opposed the ODA's lumping of graffiti and tagging as the same thing, done by the same people. No one spoke in support of tagging. The ODA's position is that the free walls encourages tagging. The ridiculousness of the ODA's position can be understood in the analogy offered by a community member at the meeting: when one or two people speed in their cars, the roads are not shut down. Tagging happens, randomly and anonymously, just as speeding does. The free walls encourage thought, planning and open painting. Condemning it all is wrong.

(Continued page 15)

What to do with the Welfare Funds Surplus

by Joanne Barker

Governor Locke is a modern-day Sheriff of Nottingham. With the decision to take the welfare surplus and give it to the educational fund, he is robbing the poor to give to the rich. The North Thurston school district has a very large budget surplus along with the Olympia school district and others. Our Governor has made a political move with the public: putting pressure on the quality of public education, Mr. Locke decided to pour more money into an already fat calf to get the votes. If we protest we are the bad guys once again by appearing to be against education. By doing this, the Governor has supported this administration's agenda, class warfare. Either way the poor loses. It is interesting that the Governor is so concerned about education. With the welfare reform changes, which has created this surplus, many recipients that had years of their hard work invested in school trying to get a wage they could live on, were forced to leave.

This is injury upon injury to the poor as they are struggling to deal with all the new and difficult changes. The welfare problem cannot be solved in one year. This problem took years to get this way and will require years of dedication and investment to bring about positive change. At this point the welfare surplus has been at the expense of human lives. Things are not better but are rapidly worsening. There are major cracks the poor are falling into. With a lack of food, shelter and the basics of life, they struggle as the politicians turn up the heat with no hope in sight. I have heard the statistics of success the welfare case workers cite to us, but I live it and know others and our reality and their statistics do not match. The bottom line is the welfare surplus needs to be reinvested into these giant cracks in the welfare system to create programs to assist those who are trying hard and getting nowhere.

My story is a long journey of hard work and living with the assistance of the government. I was raised in a working middle class home. I learned work ethics, money management and love. I also was taught that if I worked hard enough I would get somewhere in life which is not a reality today. With the encouraged class warfare by the politicians of this administration, this attitude leads society into believing that those of us that are on government assistance or in this poverty class are either lazy, doing something wrong that needs fixing, or are stupid for winding up here and not being able to get out. Fact is politics and this world is what is broken not the poor people

(Continued page 14)

The Olympia Citizens Assembly:
A First Step to Overthrowing Corporate Rule

Jeff Sowers

Note: Jeff is a member of Olympians Concerned About Democracy (OCAD), but his views and opinions do not necessarily represent those of OCAD or its members.

David Korten, who recently spoke in Olympia, wrote a book entitled *When Corporations Rule the World*. The title of this book captures the heart of the problem we face. Corporations do indeed rule the world. This is largely due to the fact that corporations rule the most powerful country in the world - the United States.

If we were ruled by a dictator who was violating human right, waging a war on the poor, imprisoning thousands of minorities and poverty stricken citizens, raping the environment and destroying our ecosystem, the solution to the problem would be clear: overthrow him, and bring down his government.

People will support efforts to create more genuine democracy, if such efforts seem reasonable, and carry no risk of damaging or destabilizing society.

So if we are ruled by corporations, why isn't the solution obvious to us? Should not our cause be to overthrow corporate rule? In this country, of course, overthrow does not entail the use of violence. We are free to organize, disseminate opinion and information, and we vote in the leaders which make the laws. In this context, what would "overthrow" mean? It would mean using the rights and freedoms that we have to create a system of government in which the people, not corporations, ruled. Before discussing how to do this, we first must clearly identify what it is about the current system that allows corporations to control it.

The reason that corporations are able to rule the present system is that there is this tremendous gap between the people and the democratic process. We elect representatives to do our democracy for us, but we do not do it ourselves. We are observers of democracy, not participants. It is this gap that the corporations are able to exploit with a vengeance.

Into this gap flows campaign funds, lobbyists, expert analysis, think tank prepared theory and ideology, etc. To paper over the gap in the minds of the public, we are fed a constant dose of lofty sounding, feel good rhetoric, like "we the people", "in liberty and justice for all", "devoted public service", "the American people deserve_" etc. It is all the very height of hypocrisy, and most Americans intuitively know it. Yet it has a certain pacifying effect. I guess its easier to be screwed over by someone who gives you respect and puts you on a pedestal. A little sugar coating on the cyanide pill makes it easier to swallow.

If we are to overthrow corporate rule, we must remove this gap which allows them to rule. We must begin to take democracy into our own hands. Our representatives should not be seen as stand ins for the public, but as servants or agents of the public, carrying out the public's directives.

So how do we go about removing the gap? Is such an idea even feasible or reasonable at the present moment in history? Absolutely. According to a 1996 poll titled "The Mood of Washington", about 70% of the public have lost faith in the ability of our political process to honestly represent their interests. The trick to taking an advantage of this loss in faith is to lead the public down a path of small, safe steps that can take us where we want to go. People will support efforts to create more genuine democracy, if such efforts seem reasonable, and carry no risk of damaging or destabilizing society.

So what might these series of steps be? To begin, we need a reasonably clear vision of where we want to go. Before we can plan the itinerary of our trip, we need a destination. We need a model to shoot for.

If what we want is genuine democracy, then we should look to examples of genuine democracy that have actually existed. Such examples include ancient Athenian democracy, the Icelandic Althing, the Botswanan Khotla, and the New England town hall meetings. All of these are excellent examples of genuine democracy that actually worked, even

(Continued page 14)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

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Back issues are also available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

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The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, April 23

6pm at Olympia Center Lobby

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, April 27th
7pm at the Olympia Library

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wip@olywa.net

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--Tim Wise

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Letters & Briefs

APRIL

by Frank Hoffman

They say April is a time of remembering. To me it is the beginning of a year. The days getting longer, the sun warmer and the light less white, more yellow; friends on the street downtown seem to be smiling more.

New organisations, like Olympians Concerned About Democracy, springing up and older ones, like Bread and Roses and the Liberation Cafe, regrouping, re-energizing.

The Olympia Police and the Downtown Business Association are still trying, some of the people in those organisations, to make downtown Olympia appear to be inhabited solely by middleaged and avid shoppers. This time the focus seems to be on graffiti. Now, tell me again what demographic group creates graffiti?

John Trudell and Cecilia Rodriguez and Michael Parenti have just been speaking in downtown Olympia. They change lives. They've been doing that for years. They were greeted by large audiences here in downtown Olympia.

The state legislature is in session, moving money around. I wish they could have heard Cecilia Rodriguez talk about the dream, the hope for community, being nurtured in Chiapas.

We are all in this together, whether we are dreamers or merchants and we can't afford to be unkind to each other. Merchants can be dreamers and dreamers can be practical.

Calling each other names does not create closeness, does not make peace possible. What will bring us together, help us trust each other?

It is all personal. It is inappropriate to wrap yourself in ideology and try to hide there. That excuses violence.

We have faces. We have names. We stumble along hoping for transforming love and fearing death.

The earth is waking up again underneath our feet. We are blessed by friends. We look into each others eyes. We can do this! We can create a community where everyone feels safe, where everyone feels honored.

Olympians Concerned About Democracy

General Meeting and Public Forum

Agenda includes guest speakers, and discussion of best way to advance the Olympia Measure on Corporations and Democracy. Public Welcome. All in attendance have speaking and voting rights.

Sunday, April 25th, 2-4 pm
Olympia Public Library.
<www.olywa.net/ocad> or 352-5636.

The Mom's House/YUP!

by Diane Smith

Youth Unlimited Partnership (YUP!) and The Mom's House work with at risk youth to provide them with positive activities and education, housing and parenting skills. The Mom's House will house pregnant and parenting teens. YUP! is growing in members and services, and The Mom's House is getting closer and closer to opening. The Low Income Housing Institute is working with them to purchase a house for The Mom's House program. This important project is now that much closer to being a reality.

It does take a village or a "community" to raise a child. Communities pulling together and assisting others in plugging the holes is the right thing to do. And, quoting from UW Professor Dr. David Hawkins' address at the State Youth Safety Summit last August, "We cannot arrest and incarcerate our way out of the problem of youth violence and crime. We need effective strategies for preventing violence in the first place."

YUP! has grown to well over 150 youths participating in the programs' activities. Their twice monthly dinner speaker meeting average over 30 kids per meeting. From community service projects of visiting the Roo Lan Senior Center every month, to "I've Got Pride" anti-litter campaign currently underway (culminating in the All-City Hip Hop Picnic for the kids on June 13th), and field trips including the Monroe Reformatory last December, two Mariners games and two trips to Wild Waves, the kids are getting some great exposure to things they may never have had the opportunity to see or do in the past. This past July, YUP! was one of four recipients of Lacey Rotary's 1998 Ron Rowe Community Improvement Award for outstanding community service.

Humanizing the interactions between youth and police was one of our main objectives when YUP! began. That has happened with the Lacey Police and the Sheriff's Office! And what a payoff! Gang related referrals are all but gone. Cops and kids are washing cars together, playing basketball together and basically everyone is getting along much better. The Sheriff's Office reports that for the first time in years, during the month of January of this year there were NO gang related cases referred at all. We know we

(Continued page 15)

The Capitol Theater in Downtown Olympia

Olympia FILM SOCIETY

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South Sound's Monthly Environmental Newspaper

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APRIL 1999

Hanford: Cherynobl, U.S.A.

1943: Hanford site chosen for Manhattan Project
• 1,200 residents evacuated in 30 days and access was denied to Native Americans.

1944: By-product of plutonium production, begin to be released into the river, the air and soil.

1945: Hanford produces plutonium for world's 1st nuclear detonation in Alamogordo, NM and Nagasaki bomb.

1945: Hanford scientists begin Green Runs: releasing Iodine 131 into the atmosphere over a 10 year period to study the movement of radiaoactive particles.

1946: Atomic Energy Act allows Hanford to operate without independent oversight.

1948: Filters were placed for first time on stacks to reduce amount of radioactive materials released.
•October: an estimated 28 lbs of uranium spilled into Columbia River.

1954: January: Release of radioactive ruthenium-106 from Hanford's Redox. Particles detected in Spokane.

1962: April: Plutonium Finishing Plant accident releases an estimated 1,200 curies of radioactive gases for 3 days. Three workers receive high exposures.

1973: May: Seattle P-I reports 100 billion gallons of low-level liquid waste discharged into groundover 30 years.
• June: Hanford officials announce 115,000 gallon leak from nuclear waste tank 106-T.

1980: The last reactor was shut down.

1990: Norm Buske, anti-nuclear scientist, made jam out of mulberries found near Hanford Nuclear Reservation that "were loaded with radioactive Strontium 90" and mailed it to Gov. Booth Gardner.
• Bushes were uprooted, plastic wrapped and buried.

1992: Mulberries bushes down stream were also cut, placed in 28 plywood boxes, each 4 'x 4' x 8'. Regulations had changed; burial costs skyrocketed to $10,000 per box.

1993: Boxed bushes sent to radioactive waste incinerator at Oak Ridge. Returned as 2,000 lbs of ash, containing 2 new radioactive components - iron 55 and magnesium 54 - leftovers from the incinerator's previous burn.

1998: April: Columbia River's Hanford Reach declared America's Most Endangered River due in part to potential nuclear waste contamination from Hanford
• October: Fruit flies, gnats, ants and other insects suspected of spreading radiation contamination.
• 35 tons of contaminated trash taken back from the Richland city landfill.

1999: Ironically, Hanford is "one of the last two intact examples of the once-vast Columbia Basin shrub-steppe ecosystem. "And...the mulberry bushes that were cut down have "since then grown back, and the radiation levels in the leaves are stronger than ever."

Sources: The Nature Conservancy; Columbia River United; Hanford Health Information Network ; Hanford PAC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MAY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**"Our people lived off the land and right now we have many people suffering from many cancers, auto immune diseases like lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, heart disease, bone marrow, birth defects..."** **Barbara Apira, Colville Tribe**		**1** **1998**: Locke signs bills that set up a Salmon Recovery Office and a clearinghouse to fund local salmon recovery projects	**2** **1998**: Locke vetoes bill shielding employer from lawsuits for giving lousy job references **1998**: Teen tobacco use has risen 30% since '92	**3** **1998**: Locke signs bills banning distribution of drug paraphernalia and subjecting those w/ no-contact orders and kill spouse to death penalty
4 *spring ahead* **1904**: Dutch kill 541 more Achinese in 30-year war in Sumatra **1932**: Vit.C is isolated **1995**: Dow breaks barrier, passes 4200 mark.	**5** **1939**: German government orders all children aged 10 to 13 to register and serve in the Hitler Youth Organization	**6** **1998**: Dow closes over 9,000 for first time **1998**: Columbia River's Hanford Reach listed as most endangered river	**7** **1998**: Cuba sentences 1,179 Bay of Pig invaders to 30 years **1998**: Study reports women are best able to cope with pain	**8** **1998**: RJR will no longer support national tobacco settlement **1998**: Pat Schroeder says Clinton might be a sexual addict	**9** **1939**: Marian Anderson gives concert at Lincoln Monument after the D.A.R. refused to allow her to sing in Constitution Hall	**10** **1945**: Buchenwald liberated by Allies **1946**: Women in Japan vote for first time **1998**: Accord is signed in N. Ireland
11 **1865**: Lincoln asks suffrage for black vets and intelligent blacks **1996**: 7-year-old killed in an attempt to fly cross-country	**12** **1869**: N. Carolina passes anti-Klan law **1864**: South captures Fort Pillow, Tenn., and massacres predominantly black force	**13** **1998**: IMF states Asian crisis will slow world economic more than perviously thought and predicts US trade deficit will sharply increase	**14** **1901**: N.Y. actors arrested for wearing costumes on Sunday **1998**: Dept of Ecology gives Diamond 90 days to repair artesian well	**15** **1998**: State ethics board clears Tumwater Council member Chris Parsons of charges by another council member Mark Shattack	**16** **1998**: Survey shows elected officials. appointees, bureaucrats don't believe citizens know enough on issues to form wise opinions	**17** **1961**: Bay of Pigs **1998**: Government reveals the U.S. foreign trade deficit grew in February to its highest level since late 1987
18 **1933**: Minnesota enacts mortgage moratorium on farms/homes **1961**: Moscow: Demonstrations against Bay of Pigs Invasion	**19** **1996**: Chief Wurner begins open-ended sick leave requested by his doctor. "I definitely plan to come back to work."	**20** **1998**: Chicago jury rules anit-abortion groups violated racketeering laws by planning to close abortion clinics with violence	**21** **1997**: Supreme Court refused to free Brown University of rulings that the Ivy League school discriminated against female athletes	**22 Earth Day** **1998**: Congress releases documents reveilling tobacco companies suppression of research on the hazards of smoking	**23** **1998:** State Supreme Court rules that children need not have known their actions were illegal as a condition for prosecution	**24** **1968**: African-Americans occupy Boston University administration building to demand a black history major
25 **1997**: Federal judge rules FDA has right to regulate cigarettes **1997**: 40 cyclists rode in Critical Mass Demonstration in Olympia	**26** **1998**: Justice Dept report claims 13 percent of men and 43 percent of women in local jails have been abused sometime in their lives	**27** **1919**: Finnish Diet abolishes monarchy **1978**: W Virginia: 51 killed when scaffolding collapses at a power plant	**28** **1996**: Israel/US to develop laser weapon **1997**: Supreme Court shields cities and counties from pay damages for police brutality	**29** **1997**: Thurston County Superior Court Judge allows cherry growers to continue housing imigrant farm workers in tents	**30** *full moon* **1997**: Ellen Degeneres comes out of the closet on television sitcom **1998**: Government reports teen birth rate fell 12% from '91 to '96	**"One day they said we need this land, we're gonna use it, you can't come in here no more. What could we do?"** **Richard Buck** **Wanapum Band**

Along the Color Line

Millions for Mumia

Dr. Manning Marable

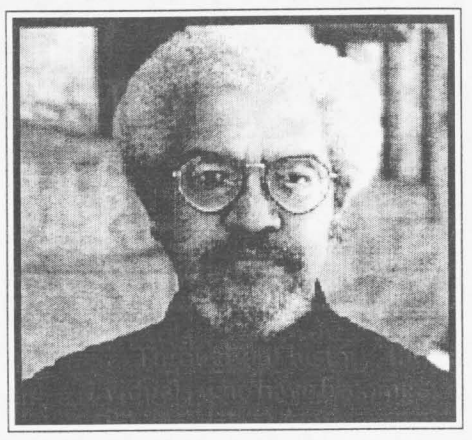
Throughout history, there are individuals who have become symbols for the struggles of humanity against oppression. In African-American history, one thinks immediately of Paul Robeson, whose passport was taken away by the U.S. government, and who became a 'nonperson' in his own country. In the 1970s, Angela Y. Davis and George Jackson were political prisoners whom the system sought to destroy. In South Africa, Nelson Mandela was imprisoned by the apartheid regime for nearly three decades, but from his prison cell he became the moral conscience of the entire world.

That same mantle of martyrdom and courage now belongs to Mumia Abu-Jamal. Jamal's case is now known throughout the world. Born in 1954, Jamal became a political activist as a teenager, when he became a founding member and lieutenant minister of information of the Philadelphia branch of the Black Panther Party. In the 1970s, Jamal emerged as a prominent critic of local white authorities. His brilliant political essays and investigative reports created enemies inside the police force and local government, and he lost his job. To make ends meet, Jamal started to work part-time at nights as a cabdriver.

After midnight on December 9, 1981, Jamal was shot and viciously beaten by the Philadelphia police. He was charged with the murder of a police officer named Daniel Faulkner, whose body was found at the scene. Mumia Abu-Jamal was promptly charged with murder, was found guilty and was sentenced to death.

It was only after Jamal was convicted that substantial evidence surfaced indicating gross violations of prosecutorial and police procedures. Several so-called eyewitnesses to the crime were coached and coerced by the police. Throughout the U.S. and the world, solidarity groups began to form on Mumia's behalf, demanding a new trial. Despite strong evidence of Jamal's innocence, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review his case, and Pennsylvania's Republican Governor Tom Ridge signed his death warrant on July 2, 1995. Massive protest marches and demonstrations in defense of Mumia pressured authorities. Only days before his scheduled execution, the legal clock is still ticking. Nevertheless, the legal clock is still ticking toward the state-sanctioned murder of Mumia.

The Mumia Abu-Jamal case highlights the racist and arbitrary character of the death penalty, especially when



applied to African Americans. There are currently more than three thousand people on death row, the largest number awaiting execution in American history. Since 1976, over 300 people have been executed in the U.S.

Who is on death row? According to the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, based in Chicago, about 40 percent of all death row prisoners are African Americans. Although blacks comprise one half of all murder victims in a typical year, at least 85 percent of the victims in death penalty cases were white.

Statistically, the death penalty has always been a central pillar of white supremacy and institutional racism. Since this country was founded two centuries ago, about 18,000 individuals have been legally executed. Only 31 of these executions have involved a white person who had murdered a black person. In other words, it is extremely rare, if not impossible, for a white person to be given the death penalty for killing African Americans.

Black people's lives are defined as being less important by the very processes of the courts and the police. Death penalty researcher David Baldus has documented that in the he state of Georgia in the 1970s and 1980s, the killers of whites were about 4.3 times more likely to be given the death penalty than the individuals convicted of killing black people.

On Saturday, April 24, hundreds of thousands of people will be coming to Philadelphia and San Francisco demanding that the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal be stopped, that he must be granted a new trial based on the real evidence. These massive demonstrations are called 'Millions for Mumia.' The significance of the date is that April 24 is also Mumia's birthday. It's the ideal moment to let Mumia know how much this struggle means to us, and that the campaign to end the death penalty is directly linked to saving his life.

The Institute for Research in African-American Studies at Columbia University will sponsor a major conference on the theme, 'Race-ing Justice: Black America vs. the Prison-Industrial Complex,' on Friday, April 23, the day before the Millions for Mumia demonstration. The teach-in will feature panels and workshops on issues such as racism and the death penalty, women of color in prison, black political prisoners inside the U.S., and of course, the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Youth and students must take the opportunity to learn about issues of racism and criminal justice, as well as joining others in demonstrating for human rights and justice.

A generation ago, millions of people demonstrated on behalf of Angela Y. Davis, and we saved her life. Now we are challenged to save the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal. By saving Mumia, we may begin to save and transform this country.

Who is on death row? According to the Campaign to End the Death Penalty, based in Chicago, about 40 percent of all death row prisoners are African Americans.

April 24th - Millions for Mumia Update

Carpool from Olympia

International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu Jamal is calling for mass demonstrations in Philadelphia and San Francisco on April 24th to demand justice - and a new trial - for Mumia. April 24th is Mumia's birthday, as well as the anniversary of the signing into law of the Effective Death Penalty Act. This act, signed by Bill Clinton as a rider to his Anti-Terrorism Act, essentially does away with the constitutional right of Habeas Corpus, the basis on which 40% of all death penalty sentences are overturned.

Vanpools to San Francisco are being arranged. Call 413-4465 soon to reserve your space. We expect the vans to leave Olympia early Friday, April 23, and return late Sunday, April 25. Expected cost per rider is $35 round-trip.

Sometime between June and October, the U.S. Supreme Court will rule on Mumia's writ of certiorari. It is likely that this motion will be routinely denied. At that time, Governor Ridge will most likely sign the death warrant, and Mumia's attorneys will file for a stay of execution. A motion of habeas corpus will then be filed with the Federal Court of Appeals.

Court procedings are highly political, and the voices of millions can make a difference. Plan to travel to San Francisco on April 24th. Be a part of the largest demonstrations ever held to free a U.S. political prisoner. Demand a new trial. Be there!

Evergreen & Mumia

by Megan Davis

Mumia Abu-Jamal has a good chance of becoming one of Evergreen's graduation spreakers this June. As a graduating senior, I strongly want to see this happen. And so do almost all the seniors I've talked with about it. This event would increase publicity for Abu-Jamal, and hopefully the fee would help out his family. Also, in my view, hearing Abu-Jamal's eloquent, radical voice would turn an otherwise dully formal event into a celebration to be proud of, and inspired by.

Gary Locke (yawn) was originally invited to be keynote speaker, but for a while there was some confusion over whether he had accepted or declined. When the planning committee was under the impression that Locke had declined the invitation, a member invited Abu-Jamal to be keynote speaker. He accepted, with the plan that he would give a call-in speech, with a prerecorded backup speech in case he got cut off. However, it now turns out that Locke has accepted the keynote speaking postion. At this point, there is no question that Locke will be keynote speaker, but there is no reason Abu-Jamal cannot speak as well. Abu-Jamal could be hosted as an honored guest speaker, while Locke retains the title of keynote speaker. Why not allow the graduating seniors to vote on the matter? We could set up booths the second week of spring quarter, and see if the seniors want Mumia to speak. If you are a Greener, whether student or alumni, and you would like Mumia to speak at this year's graduation, then call or write Jesse Welsh, administrative head of the planning committee, and share your feelings. Just call 866-6000 and ask for Mr. Welsh's extension number. Then leave your message with his friendly secretary.

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Up Front

Reader Response!

Jerome Johnson

As you know, every month or so I like to take a break from the normal format, and just answer readers' questions. Occasionally I get mail, but most of the time someone buttonholes me and asks me about something. I don't mean to sound like The Great I Am, but a lot of the time I can't get a whole column out of a simple answer. (I bet I'm the only pundit you'll hear THAT from!) So, instead I like to combine answers into one column several times a year...

Q What do you think of the guilty verdict and death sentence in the Byrd case?

I'm satisfied with the verdict, but remain opposed to the death penalty--even in this case. The fact remains that in America, especially in Texas and Florida, men of color are still much more likely to be charged with, convicted of, sentenced to death and executed. A white person remains less likely to be charged, tried, sentenced and executed, especially if the victim is a person of color. Law enforcement officials remain virtually immune from accountability in cases of police brutality, even though such abuses are widely known, especially along the Mexico border.

Moreover, we must remember that the method of execution in Texas is lethal injection. That means that *if* King's execution is upheld through the appeals, he'll be strapped to a table in the death chamber under a doctor's supervision. The IVs will go into his arms. When the drip starts, King will get sleepy, too sleepy to keep his eyes open. As far as he's concerned he'll fall into what feels like a deep sleep. He just won't wake up. No pain, no torture, no slow dismemberment, and it will be fast.

I'm not a vengeful person, but even if he's executed King won't suffer the way he made James Byrd suffer--for hours, with no doctor to make sure everything is clean and painless. He won't know the terror that Byrd felt or his agony as his body was ripped apart. He won't feel the chains around his arms, binding him to his death. And if I was a vengeful person I'd sentence King and his co-murderers to life in prison with no possibility of parole--in general population. Let them take their chances with the Bloods, Crips and BGDs, and we'll see if they last as long as Jeffrey Dahmer did.

Q: Why do we get updates on Kosovo every half hour, but nothing on the African wars?

My honest opinion? Because our media reflects the racism in our society, and most of white America just doesn't give a damn that Africa is in flames from coast to coast, from Angola to Ethiopia. Even though record number of US special forces personnel are there as observers, and even though we're talking about a region more than a third again the size of their beloved western Europe. In a way I'm glad. It's bad enough the wars are so savage -- but think it would be even worse if the US got actively involved.

Q: What do you think of OJ Simpson's new job?

More power to him! I hope he keeps custody of his kids, too.

Q: Should Hillary Clinton run for senator?

Hell no! I can't believe she would be dumb enough to quit being First Lady--where she is politically invulnerable--for a long, nasty election fight with the formidable Rudolph Giuliani. All the gloves would be off. And even if she won, which I doubt, would she really want Trent Lott to control her schedule? I also think there would be a big backlash from the American people. ("That ungrateful, power-hungry bitch--the GOP was right about her all along! Being First Lady wasn't good enough for her? And to think, we believed in her all year during the impeachment trial!") She'd be better off campaigning like hell for Gore, who's in for the fight of his political life.

Q: Who do you think the 2000 GOP nominee will be?

Right now, this minute, I'd say John McCain.

Q: What about Liddy Dole and George W. Bush?

I think Liddy Dole is more media fantasy than feasible candidate. They're salivating at the story it would make. I think that even if by some miracle the right wing of the GOP accepted a woman as the candidate, there's no way the party or Bob & Liddy Dole would be able to handle it once the viagra ridicule began in earnest.

Q: Any ideas on Y2K?

Stock up on canned goods, candles, matches/lighters, charcoal briquets/lighter fluid, firewood, beans/rice, gasoline, fire extinguishers and ammunition. Get hard copies of bills and bank records

Well, gang, that's it for now. See ya next month!

In Nigeria, a former general has a chance to change a nation--and by example, a continent.

In Israel, politicians argue over who will end the Lebanese incursion soonest.

And in Thurston County, as around the world, International Women's Month is celebrated even as of spring, season of life and renewal, begins with sunshine and balmy breezes.

Dow Jones = Walk Out

by WIP News Service

Last quarter over 300,000 jobs were filled. The average wage for workers rose less than one cent. The Dow Jones Industrial Average leapt up over 300 points the day these statistics were reported, nearing the remarkable record of 10,000 points. The players on Wall Street are making mega-bucks at the cost of billions of worker hours, tears, sweat, and blood. We are building more prisons than schools, more garages than affordable housing, and valuing information more than genuine interaction. Enough is enough! Capitalism is not sustainable. Our Republic is not a Democracy. Do not aid the destruction of enjoyable life for a second longer! Those of us in the progressive movements cannot advocate or catalyze significant change until we all work together, in the same moment, in the same movement. If/when the Dow Jones Industrial Average reaches 10,000 it is a signal to all that the United States of America has reached unacceptable greed. Today the Dow Jones reached over 9,800.

To eliminate classism, strike against Capitalism
To eliminate racism, strike against Capitalism
To free Mumia, strike against Capitalism
To end hate crimes, strike against Capitalism
To stop the bombings in the Middle East, strike against Capitalism
To strengthen unions, strike against Capitalism
To obtain equal rights, strike against Capitalism
To save the wilderness, strike against Capitalism
To prevent rape, strike against Capitalism
To close down sweatshops, strike against Capitalism
To radically transform our day to day lives, strike against Capitalism

As soon as you hear that the Dow Jones Industrial Average has hit 10,000 pts, Stop whatever you are doing. Get out of your house, walk off the job, leave your classes, be with your community. Talk with whoever you can about how the high points on Wall Street means low wages, poverty, environmental destruction, hatred, and oppression of all kinds for the majority of people. Then the two of you talk with more people, and the seven of you talk with more people. An email cannot change our society or world, but candid one-to-one conversations can, everyone acting at once, suddenly at the same time can make a difference. Strike against Capitalism, rally for what we ALL want...

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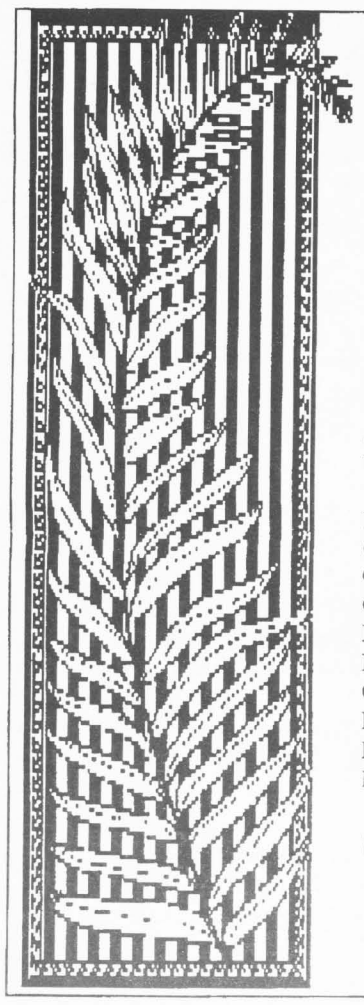

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Trickle-Down Benefit from the AUTOcracy

Pat Tassoni

The wheelers and dealers up at the Capital Auto Mall would like Cooper Point Road, which runs in front of their businesses, to be renamed to something like "Auto Mall Boulevard". They believe the benefit will trickle down to the entire community of Olympia. The equation goes like this:

1. rename the road so everyone knows exactly where it is (as if the signs already there and directions over the phone are so hard to follow)
2. the more cars can be sold (there's a sucker born every minute)
3. the more taxes they pay (a fraction of the value of selling public space to the highest bidder/whiner)
4. the city coffers swell (a drop in the bucket at the public's expense)
5. we all get full-color utility bills (more likely it all goes for helping to pay for road repair and other damages all these cars do)

What's good for business is good for Olympia? Plainly stated, this is corporate welfare at its most absurd. What kind of precedent is this setting? If this isn't going to be an option reserved just for the very richest of businesses and people, we should all be able to access it. Just like personalized license plates, every year, people and businesses can pay a fee to have their street renamed in their honor. We can hyphenate each block of a road with the names of those wanting special recognition. Who would be confused by Farmer's Market-Capital Way, Formerly Yard Birds-Capital Way, Olympia Center-Capital Way, Capitale-Ramada-Capital Way? And it would be so much easier to find your friend's home if he or she lived on the corner of Smith-Garcia-Jones-Wang-Hiedelfilgen-21st Avenue and Green Frog-Capital Way. Right? Hell, it would even make me wanna go shopping!

I gathered over a hundred signatures in about an hour on a petition that simply reads: "We, the undersigned, do not want the City of Olympia to change the name of a portion of Cooper Point Road to reflect the 'Capital Auto Mall.' There is no public benefit to having a road renamed in a private businesses interest." Not one person I talked to endorsed the proposal — some thought I was making it up. Based on my interaction with the public, if this were an election, I think this issue would easily go down to defeat, falling out very strongly along class lines. The majority of people don't want this name change.

We should ignore the two main proponents of this proposal. One is the *Olympian*. A large portion of their paper is financed through the auto dealers advertisements — a point they fail to mention in their "objective" articles and their supportive editorials. The other is the dealers themselves who blantantly suggest that if their proposal doesn't pass, council folks running for re-election won't be able to count on their support, financially or otherwise. Excuse me, I thought this was a democracy not an AUTOcracy!

As I handed the petitions over to the City Council, I suggested a few ways (a beginning) to benefit the public and build community. Unless all these conditions are met, I don't see even the beginnings of public benefit in renaming a road in the auto dealers private interests.

Before you lose sight of the fact that this is what politics has come to in Olympia, the wheelers and dealers have finagled for themselves a public hearing on this most important issue.

1. Of course, I proposed the auto dealers pay all the public costs of the name change, over $5,000 as well as the private costs of other businesses and residents who will need new letterhead, address labels, etc.
2. I also proposed the auto dealers pay for the installation and on-going maintenance of bicycle lanes and a couple of more pedestrian crosswalks on the stretch of road in question.
3. Finally, I suggested some "public use" charges to the auto-dealers. Special fees, (maybe a million dollars) based on the dealers increase in sales and their volume of sales that the city can annually collect and distribute to such things as the Oil Smart Program, Bicycle Commuter Contest, Intercity Transit, educational forums on global warming or alternative transportation, and a hospital fund for those injured by automobiles.

Before you lose sight of the fact that this is what politics has come to in Olympia, the wheelers and dealers have finagled for themselves a public hearing on this most important issue. It is scheduled at the Olympia City Hall on April 20th starting at 7pm. It's important for you to show up and join in on a collective laugh and tell the Council "No!" Also let the Council know your thoughts as well as the *Olympian* in the meantime.

Olympia City Council
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Organizing As A Human Right

by Dollars & Sense Economic News Service

When Charlie Remington was fired in 1997 for trying to organize at union at Rogers Foam in Boston, he turned to the innovative community/labor coalition Jobs with Justice (JwJ) for help. After a year-long campaign that exposed the firing as a violation of both labor law and his fundamental human rights, Charlie was reinstated.

Remington's was one of the first 'Right to Organize' campaigns arguing that in firing or harassing a worker trying to start a union, an employer is violating the human rights to free association, free speech, and collective bargaining in the workplace.

Workers are fired in one out of every three union elections in the United States—even though it is illegal under U.S. labor law. 'Many employers calculate that they are better off disobeying the law than playing by the rules,' reports Karl Klare of Northeastern University, so that in recent decades 'unfair labor practices have grown at an explosive rate.'

In fighting for Remington, JwJ combined a Workers' Rights Board with civil disobedience to create bad press for the employers. The Workers' Rights Board—composed of elected officials, religious leaders and community activists from the Boston area—publicly pressured Rogers Foam to rehire Remington and to permit its workers to vote for or against a union.

Fred Azcarate, the national director of JwJ, says there are also developed Right to Organize campaigns in Denver and Seattle, and Workers' Rights Boards in Ohio, Illinois, and New York. National JwJ will soon publish a comic book to educate workers about their human rights on the job.

At the root of the Right to Organize campaign, says Azcaratre, is the fact that labor law won't be strengthened any time soon, nor will its enforcement. 'So the question becomes, how can we bring community pressure to bear that helps set a higher standard of workplace justice. Part of the answer is building labor-community coalitions.'

Key to that strategy, says Amanda Cage of Massachusetts JwJ, is understanding 'the labor movement as a social movement...It's not just about gaining new members so unions can balance their budgets, but changing the situation for all workers.'

The AFL-CIO also is using a Right to Organize strategy, working with JwJ on campaigns in support of individual fired workers. Yet unlike JwJ's more grassroots, open-ended approach, in its campaigns the AFL-CIO tried to win agreements toward organizing new members. It also targets journalists and politicians for support and lobbies city councils to pass symbolic resolutions supporting the right of workers to join a union.

In a quantum leap over past practice, the AFL-CIO is even collaboration with Amnesty International to hold a series of public events in 1999 on the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Written 50 years ago, it recognizes that 'Everyone has the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of their interests.'

National Jobs with Justice can be reached at 202-434-1106.

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Envisioning Futures:

Elizabeth Martínez & Angela Y. Davis

Wendy C. Ortiz

***De Colores Means All Of Us: Latina Views for a Multi-Colored Century* by Elizabeth Martínez, foreword by Angela Y. Davis. South End Press, Cambridge, MA, 1998.**

I began reading the thirty concise chapters contained in *De Colores Means All of Us* a week before my first radio show. My show has taken on some of the best attributes of this book.

Most vividly, the title. I almost decided to use this title for the name of my show, because it describes most accurately the content and the intent of my program: a show concerned with various social justice issues, with women of color's perspectives highlighted, because that is the experience I know best. This book is one of a kind in its descriptions of moments in activist history as well as perspectives on current events. I hungrily read it from cover to cover, and fantasized about being surrounded by books that feature the perspective of Elizabeth Martínez and her ilk.

Labeled "Chicana pundit," Martínez is a veterana of social justice movements. She utilizes her own herstory and experiences to chronicle and critique contemporary activist movements, many of which are underreported by mainstream media.

In the chapter "Seeing More than Black and White," Martínez identifies the bipolar, or binarism of this nation's dealing with race only in black and white. This way of framing the discussion leaves unacknowledged the countless other groups that make up this country, and how quickly the demographics are changing. She correctly portrays the self-centeredness of U.S. culture with its notions of "manifest destiny."

In "That Old White (Male) Magic," Martínez reviews twenty-four books about the social movements of the 1960s and critiques their lack of inclusion of movements of color during that decade. She highlights history lessons that may never see the light of day in average textbooks or chronicles of sixties" social movements. One such movement involved no less than 10,000 Chicano high school students walking out of schools in Los Angeles in 1968 to protest the lack of Raza studies and the racism prevalent in their classrooms. Also left out of many books is the Chicano moratorium against the Vietnam War in 1970. Twenty-thousand people participated and three died at the hands of police. Why aren"t these demonstrations mentioned in books written by leftists? Martínez posits that 'some progressive white intellectual men" have not done enough in combating racism and sexism. Perhaps giving a slight nod to the demonstrations and protests of communities of color in leftist history books would be a beginning.

Martínez consistently emphasizes the intersections between class, gender, and race throughout each of her essays

Immigrant-bashing and organizing among women of color in sweatshops are also among the subjects of this book. Some of the essays read like short, topical newspaper essays, which increases the ease with which a reader can engage the writing, and the tone of the writer. Martínez remains ever-hopeful, but outlines in each essay the fundamentals of successful activism across color lines. Her experiences working with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in the sixties up to her current activist endeavors have taught her much, and any reader would be able to taste the knowledge that Martínez brings to the table.

"Identity politics", campus racism, and environmental racism are also among the topics Martínez delves into in her book of essays. In "Listen Up, Anglo Sisters," Martínez discusses reproductive rights and the failure of white feminists to include women of color in panels and discussions of reproductive rights. She argues that white feminists have used the excuse that the culture of women of color is often too conservative and not aligned with pro-choice objectives. "We will no longer be silent and invisible!" Martínez writes, in addition to stating the truth of this issue: that reproductive freedoms are high priorities for women of color.

A review of the film "Follow Me Home" (which graced Olympia with its presence last year) and a review of writer/activist Cherríe Moraga's works round out the book with artistic and cultural critiques.

Martínez consistently emphasizes the intersections between class, gender, and race throughout each of her essays, and reiterates, needfully, the obligations that she and other activists have in also emphasizing these intersections. In addition, her emphasis on youth is a refreshing concept that is often missing from other contemporary leftist activist handbooks.

"De Colores" means all of us, envisioning futures, working together, struggling together. Elizabeth Martínez relates her experiences in a way that sets such visions into motion. The challenge is to join together. Only then can we realize our collective strengths.

Micro-review of a Classic

Transforming Walls into Bridges

by Wendy C. Ortiz

***Angela Davis: An Autobiography.* International Publishers: New York, reprint 1988.**

"Walls turned sideways are bridges."

The statement above kept coming back to me. It appears when I see walls downtown, and the bridges that connect our east and west sides. I think of where I grew up in the San Fernando Valley, and how I could never see bridges where there were definite walls.

'Activism 101' should include the two books reviewed here. This autobiography was highly informative and also spoke of the life of an average revolutionary. Angela Y. Davis is by no means average in my book, but her autobiography was an attempt to portray that her life was not only of personal importance, but collective importance. Her struggles were shared worldwide. During her incarceration, she never stopped thinking of all prisoners, and the power that could be theirs collectively, if all struggles were viewed in such a way. In and out of jail or heavily manned police cars, Davis made speeches reminding her comrades that there was still much work to be done, for countless others in prison or in poverty.

"Nothing in the world made me angrier than inaction, than silence. The refusal or inability to do something, say something when a thing needed doing or saying, was unbearable."

A teacher of philosophy and a Communist to boot: this and Davis' struggle for justice made her dangerous to the FBI. She is never content with remaining silent when injustice looms large. For this, she was made a prisoner. And she constructed bridges from the oppressive walls.

"...I knew that my freedom would be significant only if I used it to push on for the freedom of those whose condition I had shared."

It's rare that words like this speak so directly to my mind and my heart. I want to honor Angela Y. Davis in an altar. What if I built an altar to my herstorical heroines? Most of all, I want to take her words to heart everyday. The work is still there, needing to be done. I'll settle for the small altar, and get back to work on transforming walls into bridges, not just theoretically.

Angela Y. Davis is my hero.

—quotations in italics from *Angela Davis: An Autobiography*

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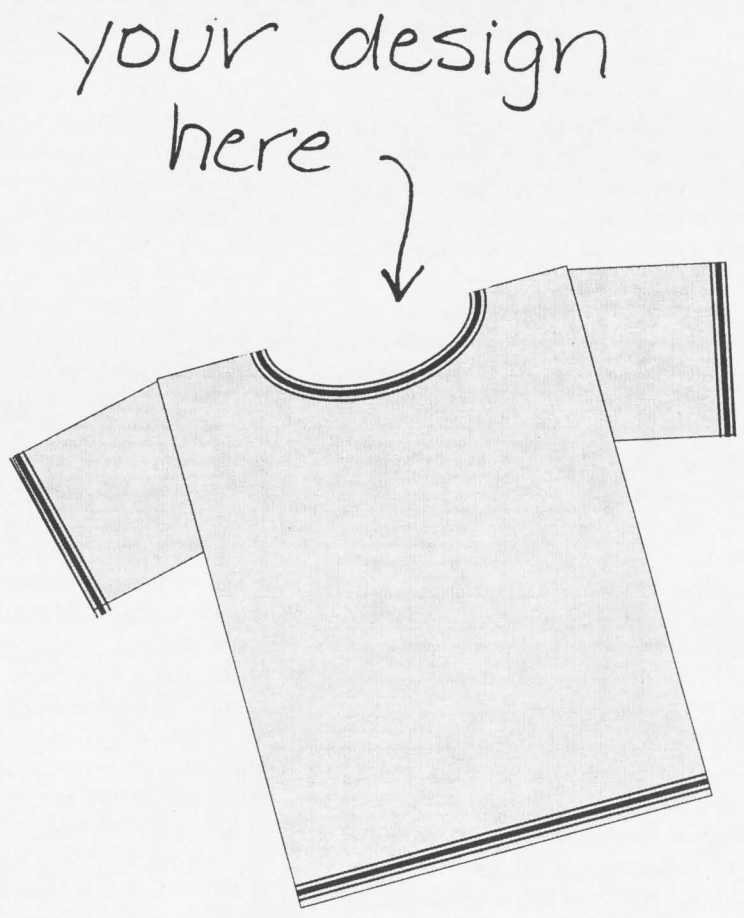
- Make it with "Works In Progress" on it. (if you don't put it on, we will)



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President Clinton's visit to Central America

Peter Bohmer

President Clinton traveled to Central America from March 8th to March 11th of this year. In Nicaragua and Honduras, he briefly visited areas that had been most devastated by Hurricane Mitch. Speaking in Posoltega, Nicaragua on March 8, 1999, 4 months after two villages had been buried by mud from Hurricane Mitch, killing 2000 people, Clinton promised small amounts of aid. He also announced the suspension for two years of any debt payments Nicaragua owed to the United States. The next day, Clinton praised the 500 U.S. troops in Honduras calling them "social workers in fatigues"+ "who are building bridges, physical and metaphorical between the people of the United States and Central America." In Guatemala he promised support for reconciliation, and made a mild apology for past U.S. support for violence and repression by the Guatemalan military, and said "the United States must not repeat that mistake." (New York Times, March 11, 1999)

Democracy and the free market are the rhetoric of the leaders of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua and their Washington connection.

Are the people of Central America entering a new era of peace, democracy and the possibility of growing prosperity? Has U.S. policy gone through a fundamental change with regards to Central America? Unlike 10 or 20 years ago, there is no war going on in Central America today. The murderous repression by the governments of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala against their populations, with the direct involvement of the United States, which marked the 1980's is not a part of the current reality. Nicaragua is at peace.

Peace But No Justice

There is peace in these countries but there is no justice. An economic war continues against the majority of the people of Central America, a war whose victims are neither tortured nor murdered directly by the military — rather this economic war causes massive and growing poverty and economic inequality, disease and lack of health care for the majority. The winners are the large landowners, the managers and owners of the factories and the banks, the financiers, the large importers and exporters. Rather than CIA organized death squads, the people face structural adjustment and neoliberalism; where government spending on social services, public transportation and education are cut drastically, where 1/3 or more of exports go to pay the foreign debt, where most of the new jobs are in the informal sector and pay even less than the low paying exploitative jobs in the other growing sector, the export processing zones.

Hurricane Mitch

President Clinton, CNN and The New York Times lament the destruction caused by Hurricane Mitch, 10,000 dead and many more homeless, and hundreds of thousands of people sick or vulnerable to disease because of the lack of water, food and medicine. What they do not say is that Hurricane Mitch's impact was made far more deadly because of the economic policies followed by Central American governments, and pressured by the United States government and international agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. The degradation of the land caused by the agro-export sector, the decline of public spending for infrastructure — roads, water — and for healthcare, all made a natural calamity worse.

Moreover, the nearly $1 billion of aid that Clinton has proposed, which is being held up by the U.S. Congress, would force these countries to open up their economies even more to U.S. foreign investment and U.S. exports, with no regulations whatsoever. We should support economic and humanitarian aid and forgiveness of all of the debt owed by Central American countries to international agencies, to Western governments and private foreign banks and it should be unconditional. Given the rightwing nature of the governments in all four of these nations, the ending of debt payments, which in the case of Honduras and Nicaragua are about 50% of their national budgets, would not directly lead to more social spending to benefit the poor, who are the majority of the population. It would, however, make it easier for progressive social movements to win demands for better education, for public health and for meeting the immense emergency needs caused by Hurricane Mitch, and to develop alternative economic and social programs. It would also make it possible for future governments with a different agenda to address the many causes of poverty and inequality by having more resources at their command.

Nicaragua and El Salvador

In Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, the left has had a difficult time in developing an alternative vision and program in this period of global capitalism. In the 1996 elections in Nicaragua, the Sandinistas (FSLN), while strongly attacking the right-wing neoliberal economic policies of the opposition, also claimed that they would welcome foreign investment with few restrictions. Their vote, while substantial, fell below 40% of those who voted, although poverty, unemployment and social deterioration had grown in the period when they were out of power from 1990 to 1996. Male domination and top down leadership continue in the FSLN. Arnoldo Aleman, mayor of Managua until 1996, and closely allied with former Somocistas and the fascist, Cuban-American National Foundation, won the 1996 elections easily. President Aleman's corrupt government has been praised by President Clinton, even as it uses the humanitarian aid sent from around the world to consolidate its power and advance its anti-poor people and pro-business agenda.

El Salvador just had elections, on Sunday, March 7th. The newly elected President of Salvador, like the previous one, is from the ARENA party. Its former head, Roberto D'Arbuisson, praised by newly elected President Francisco Flores, was called a pathological killer by a former U.S. ambassador, and murdered Bishop Romero, as well as organizing the murders of thousands of others. President-elect Flores is being called a moderate by the New York Times (Tuesday, March 9, 1999) because he studied at Amherst College and is into yoga but his economic policies are ARENA's, and exactly what Clinton and the U.S. Treasury department favor— privatization, and production for export based on a few agricultural products and on low wage labor. The FMLN, which waged a brave and inspiring revolutionary war, has had some difficulty defining itself and its strategy and organization since the peace treaty was signed in 1992. The FMLN then became a legal party. It came in second in the election last week, although a distant second, with about 30% of the vote. However, voter turnout was even lower than in the recent elections in the United States, which suggests that most people do not see the FMLN as providing many solutions at this time. The New York Times, March 11, 1999, claimed the leaders of the FMLN, many of whom are ex-guerilla leaders who now sit in the National Assembly of El Salvador, gave Clinton a standing ovation when he addressed the assembly, and asked for more investment by U.S. corporations there. The elections and the FMLN stance point out their lack of a socialist or non-capitalist alternative or a program that can substantially reduce the poverty of the majority.

Guatemala

In Guatemala, Clinton arrived two weeks after a UN commission, the Historical Clarification Commission, issued a report on February 25th, 1999 that 200,000 Guatemalans, mainly Mayan Indians, had been killed since 1960. They said over 90% of the murders were done by the Guatemalan government and military, and that the United States had provided support and training for what it called genocide against the Indian population. This remarkable report puts into writing what is already known in many parts of Guatemala. It should, but won't lead, to war crimes trials for those responsible in the United States and Guatemala. Like past U.S. presidents, e.g., Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy, Clinton mildly criticized past U.S. policy in the Americas and promised a gentler and kinder policy in the future.

I visited Guatemala in the summer of 1998, and spoke to many families who had members kidnapped, disappeared and killed by the military and groups linked to them between the late 1970's and the early 1990's. This is no longer the reality, the fear of being tortured and killed by the military, death squads and police has greatly diminished. This is a very important gain that should not be trivialized. Today, it is possible, at least in the towns and cities, to organize around human rights, indigenous rights, women's rights, unions, etc. The URNG, which led the armed struggle against the Guatemalan military, is in the process of becoming a legal political party. Nevertheless, the organized resistance to the economic onslaught of neoliberalism— lower wages, fewer jobs, deteriorating health programs and more crowded schools, seemed limited. In the short run, people seemed primarily concerned about individual survival and their family life, not collective resistance, although they have not forgotten what has happened. Street crime was a big popular concern. Rioss Montt, one of the two most murderous of the Guatemalan leaders of the 1970's and 1980's is the head of a political party that came close to winning in the last elections, running on a campaign of law and order, and his party has a chance to win in the next election.

Also, although repression currently is

(Continued next page)

Northwest Speaking Tour and A

Talks by Salvadoran development expert, Jose Alas and Sharon Miller, Executive Director American Jewish World Service will focus on "Effects of Hurricane Mitch on El Salvador: Hopes for the Future and Rededication to Sustainable Development."

Art of premiere Salvadoran Artist, Fernando Llort will be shown and sold at the benefit to raise funds for Foundation of Self-Sufficiency's efforts in assisting victims of Hurricane Mitch in El Salvador. The Foundation is assisting the Coordinating Committee of the Local Zone of peace in Usulutan, El Salvador. This peasant community is organized to restructure the region after the devastation of the hurricane and has been organized to heal the community from the scars of 12 years of civil war. They work on sustainable community development and environmental restoration and human rights. They have reorganized their communities from the bottom up in which all participate in deciding their future.

Fernando Llort is currently El Salvador's most famous artist. His work portrays visions of hope for a healed earth and community. It incorporates symbols of hope from Mayan culture and Christian cultures that provide meaning for the poor in El Salvador. His art incorporates themes of feminism and environmentalism. He also understood an effort to develop an art coop for peasants in La Palma, El Salvador. Much of the Salvadoran painted wood folk art was made at this cooperative and sold by peasants for income.

Fernando Llort was offered the opportunity to do a major mosaic art piece on the outside of the National Cathedral in San Salvador because he was El Salvador's most famous artist. He agonized over the job because he had been a very close personal friend of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero — El Salvador's prophet of the poor who was killed by death squads in 1980. Romero had stopped all construction on the Cathedral until the needs of El Salvador's poor were met. Llort was concerned with being part of the remodeling. However, the opportunity provided the most visible location for an art of inclusion, and to inspire hope in the dispossessed. He accepted the offer. He had wanted to include a representation of Oscar Romero in the art. The people paying for the art would not allow it so he artistically designed and "OR" at the top — a covert presence of the slain archbishop.

Salvadoran sustainable development expert, Jose "Chencho" Alas will speak about the effects of Hurricane Mitch and efforts of the community to rebuild. These efforts include: establishing a Local Zone of Peace, environmental restoration that would provide opportunities for the poor, provide for sustainable community development and promotion of human rights with special emphasis on women and the poor. He will also discuss the art of his friend, Fernando Llort.

In August, 1998, three Olympia residents (Alice Curtis, Teresa Jordan, and Bob Zeigler) went to El Salvador to take part in the he historic peace march and declaration of the Local Zone of Peace in Ciudad Romero (City of Romero) in Usulutan. The schools they visited and homes they stayed in were all lost in the flooding associated with the hurricane. In all 25,000 people in the area lost their homes, clothes, livestock and crops. The Foundation for Self-Sufficiency has been assisting the people of the region with chickens and seeds for new crops as well as looking for international

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limited, the military is still intact and has not been purged of its mass murderers. They are the likely murderers of Bishop Gerardi of Guatemala City, who was murdered April 26, 1998, two days after releasing another report based on three years of study, that documented and named the worst murderers within the Guatemalan military. Integral to neoliberalism is repression. Neoliberalism causes huge inequality and poverty which has and will be resisted in various ways. Those who do not accept poverty are dealt with harshly.

Conclusion

Democracy and the free market are the rhetoric of the leaders of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua and their Washington connection. However, they and the parties they lead, supported the systematic violence of the 1970's and 1980's against those who struggled for social justice and the dignity of all. Although these political parties have changed their spots a little, democracy is not substantial when wealth is so concentrated in the hands of a few.

In Olympia, although smaller than in the 1980's and early 1990's, there are still groups working in solidarity with the people of Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. On Saturday, March 13th, there was a picket at Penney's in the mall, to protest their selling clothing by Phillips Van-Heusen, which just closed their one plant in Guatemala that had been unionized. It is harder to oppose an economic war than a military war but that is our current task, as well as linking the economic and social inequality in the U.S. to the same forces causing it south of the border.

Update on the El Salvadoran Elections

Larry Mosqueda

On Sunday, March 7, 1999, El Salvador held its third national elections (and second presidential election) since the Peace Accords of 1992 were signed. This writer was part of an international delegation which observed the elections. Of the 110 observers, about 10 were current or past residents of Olympia. The group was sponsored by several groups such as the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and the Mission of International Observers.

The Peace Accords of 1992 ended 12 years of civil war where 80,000 peasants, workers, nuns and priests were killed. This war was financed and directed by the U.S. government, under the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George Bush. The end of the war set up the procedure where the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN); the former armed guerrilla group, became a legal political party and could compete in the electoral arena. The election indicates that the electoral process is a very complicated one, where the rules of the game are still being learned by the FMLN and the traditional ruling party, the Alianza Republica Nationalista (ARENA), has been able to successfully utilize the process.

The results of the election were as follows: Francisco Flores of ARENA 560,000 votes—52%, Facundo Guardado of FMLN 320,000 votes—30% and the other five political parties splitting the rest. While these results might indicate a lack of support for the former revolutionary group, the matter is much more complicated.

The biggest winner was abstentionism. Only about one-third of the voters were able to cast their votes. While in the U.S., this is often attributed to apathy; this is too simple for the El Salvadoran reality. As Michael Parenti has said, "you should not confuse apathy with antipathy and alienation", and in the case of El Salvador, enforced abstentionism.

The process of voting is very difficult. One must produce a birth certificate to obtain a voting card (this usually takes two trips), voting is not done by residence, but rather you are assigned a location by your last name, and transportation is not readily available to the poorest of the poor (the vast majority), either before or during the election day.

After the 1997 national legislative elections (where the FMLN came within one legislative seat of becoming the leading political party in the country), both the FMLN and ARENA pledged to implement electoral reform, such as a national registry, a single identification card, neighborhood voting, proportional representation, greater oversight and training by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), and nonpartisan transportation for all citizens on election day. Despite the efforts of the FMLN after the 1994 and 1997 elections, the ARENA party has consistently blocked these reforms.

When the members of our delegation met with U.S. officials at the U.S. Embassy we were told that the FMLN was the political party blocking reform. This was patently absurd since an increase in the voting population would be of great benefit for the FMLN.

In visiting U.S. Embassies in previous years in Nicaragua and El Salvador, I have learned how bald face U.S. government lies can be about events that are not just happening across the world, but also just across the street (in Managua or San Salvador). For example, our delegation was also told that working conditions in U.S. owned maquilas (sweatshops) were "the best in El Salvador". The reader can determine for him/herself whether this last statement should be classified as disinformation, basic insanity, or stand up comedy.

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There were several voting irregularities before and during the election. It is generally conceded that ARENA outspent the FMLN in the election by 10-1. ARENA itself refused to say exactly how much they spent, since the Salvadoran population itself would consider the amount to be "obscene". ARENA started its campaign a year ago in violation of the electoral laws. The TSE (which is dominated by ARENA) conducted a vote count simulation in February and lost 22% of the votes. All of these factors severely taint the results of the election.

Despite these irregularities, it is problematic whether the FMLN would have won these elections, given the present conditions in the country and the world. On a global scale, El Salvador is under severe pressure to conform to neoliberal policies of privatization, deregulation, and globalization. An FMLN victory would have heighten the contradictions, which exist in the country, in the region, and the capitalist world. Absolute refusal to participate in the global economy would bring pressure on a small country such as El Salvador that would impoverish it further to a scale of present day Nicaragua or Haiti.

The debates on how to deal with the economy have been and are being played out in the FMLN. Traditionally the candidates for El Salvadoran political parties are chosen by a few of the party hierarchy (similar to the U.S.). The FMLN, this year, in an effort to institutionalize grass roots democracy, had an open process of delegates chosen at the local level to determine the presidential and vice-presidential candidates. There are various tendencies in the FMLN (in a broad sense), a center-left, an orthodox revolutionary tendency, and a far-left tendency. The far-left group is by far the smallest group (about 5%). While the open process of debate was an important step in democracy, a side result was a lack of over all unity at the end of the process. It took a total of three conventions to pick the final candidates. This put the FMLN behind in the electoral campaign in time, money, and unity. The party was becoming more unified as the campaign progressed but it could not overcome its deficit.

A significant reason for the irregularities that ARENA engaged in, was that there would have been a runoff election in April if no party received 50% plus 1 vote. ARENA wanted to avoid a runoff that would have allowed the FMLN to form a coalition with other parties in April. So while it is problematic whether the FMLN would have won a runoff, it is at least equally problematic that ARENA honestly won over 50% of the vote. Given the successes that the FMLN has had in several of the municipalities that the party won in 1994 and 1997, such as Najapa where potable water and a sewer system are finally available to the general population, the government of El Salvador (and the U.S.) do not want any "threats of a good example" to infect the body politic of this poverty stricken nation.

The FMLN is currently engaged in an internal debate on how to best position itself for the legislative and municipal elections for March of 2000. Just as importantly, it is also engaged in an internal discussion about the level of grass root organizing that it is doing and needs to do among the urban workers, the maquila workers, peasants, teachers, youth, and other popular sectors in the country. I, and other observers of the situation, expect that the debates will be vigorous, honest, and intense. The party regulars know that while electoral politics are important, it is equally as important to maintain their revolutionary base and to build a mass movement.

For many supporters of the Central American revolutionary movements of the 1980s, the results of the elections could be considered a disappointment. This is understandable, but put into a larger perspective, it is clear that the FMLN is the most significant revolutionary party in Central America. It has the most effective analysis of neo- liberalism in the region; it has mass support in the popular movements such as the women's movement, the youth movement, and progressive unions. It also is feared by the national bourgeoisie of El Salvador and just as importantly it has the enmity of the U.S. government. These factors and others make it a movement worthy of continued support.

For those who are interested in further information on the current situation in El Salvador and what the U.S. solidarity movement is and can do with the people of the region, CISPES and others who observed the elections will report back to the community at two forums. One will be at The Evergreen State College in Lecture Hall #2 on Wednesday, April 7, at 6pm and at the Timberline Library at 313 8th Ave. SE on Wednesday, April 14 at 6pm.

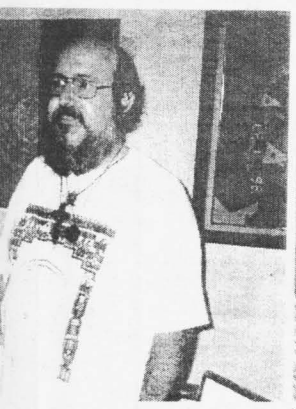
d Art from El Salvador

pport for home reconstruction.

The art benefit will cost $5 a person or $10 a family. Refreshments will served. The other events are free by will provide the opportunity for e will offering.

Jose Alas will speak also in Olympia on Tuesday, April 27 at TESC brary Lobby at Noon, local schools and for an evening presentation at aditions Fair Trade (5th and Water Street in downtown Olympia) from pm. He will be joined by Sharon Miller of New York who will share her ions of hope for the Local Zone of Peace in El Salvador.

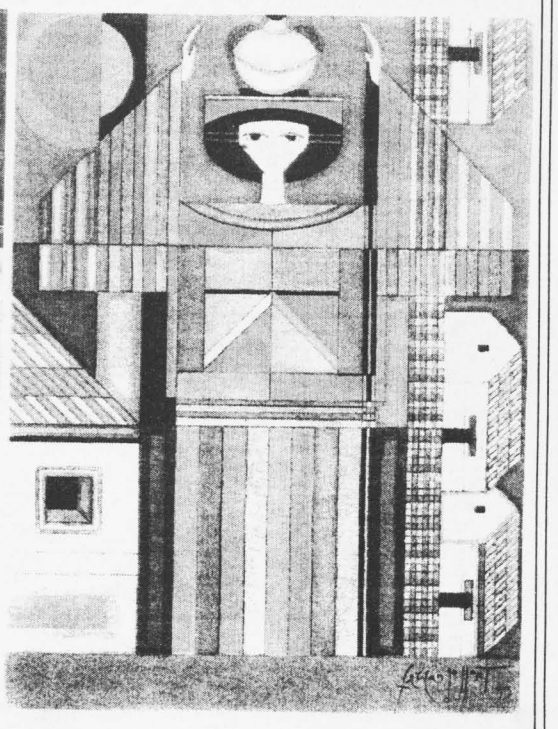
The Northwest Tour is sponsored by the Foundation for Self-Sufficiency, .S. non-profit organization (501c3) dedicated to supporting the movent for Peace and Justice in El Salvador and the rest or Central America. The r will also visit Tacoma, Seattle, Bellingham, Richland and Spokane. For re information, contact Bob at 491-7050 or Alice at 943-4076.



Salvadoran Artist:

Fernando Llort

Art of Hope and Inclusion



ART BENEFIT Fernando Llort's
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Punishing Serbian Aggression With Some of Its Own-

The U.S. in Serbia/Kosovo

Ron Jacobs

How long will we go on pretending that the motivation behind the United States and NATO desire to move into Serbia/Kosovo is in humanity's best interest? How much longer will we assign high-sounding motives to the U.S. military when, in reality, its only purpose is to protect and extend the American empire?

Neither the Kosovo independence forces nor the Serbian government are truly interested in peace. The only reason the Kosovan forces signed the "peace agreement" was because they knew the Serbian government wouldn't, thus paving the way for NATO bombardment of Serb forces and civilians. After all, NATO/US bombs and missiles are not neutral, nor are they any less lethal than the weaponry currently being expended by the Serbs and Kosovars. In fact, NATO weaponry is the most lethal on the planet. Like that of the Serbs and Kosovars, it will kill, maim, and displace those who currently live in the region, no matter what their ethnic identity.

This bombardment will only enhance the Kosovan position both politically and militarily. While the world pretends that the Kosovan army (the KLA) is ready for peace, they would use the opportunity provided by any NATO bombardment to enhance their position on the ground. Then, should the bombing temporarily halt, it is fairly safe to assume (given the way the war has gone to this point) that they would begin an offensive to take advantage of the Serbs' weakness in the wake of NATO attacks.

The Serbian position against foreign military occupation of their land is legitimate. No nation in charge of its destiny would allow this. This does not mean I support the apparent Serb position on Kosovo-- some type of autonomy for the people in the region seems reasonable. It is very unlikely, however, that any such autonomy will come while foreign troops are occupying the very soil that is called Kosovo. Either way, NATO members do not support independence movements as a matter of course. A more likely reason NATO wishes to move in to Kosovo is to ensure its inclusion in the ever expanding "new" NATO-- a NATO whose new members' primary role is to provide markets and labor for the high-powered economies of the U. S. and Germany while controlling the continent's porous borders.

In addition, any new country that might be formed is a new market for the real folks behind any war: the defense industry. The United States and NATO don't really want an independent regime in the Balkans, hence their dislike of the current Serbian government.

As for the human rights argument for military involvement: it doesn't hold water. Imperial militaries like that of the United States do not care about human rights any more than those of smaller and less powerful countries like Serbia, Israel, or Iraq. The wars against the Vietnamese, Panamanians, Nicaraguans, and Iraqis (to name a few more recent adventures) are proof enough of this. No matter what the intentions of the individual soldiers in the field, their job is to gain and hold territory whether the inhabitants of that territory agree with their mission or not and no matter what the nominal purpose of the mission might be (humanitarian or peacekeeping, for example).

Besides, if the United States is so concerned about human rights, perhaps it should stop training Latin American military officers at the School for the Americas, demand that city governments fire police officers who consistently kill civilians, end the sanctions killing Iraqi children, and allow its cultural and racial minorities to determine their own destinies free of economic and political oppression. And that's just for starters.

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On Tax Day Remember

Five Deadly Myths about the Military

Myth: More is Spent on Welfare than on the Military

Welfare amounts to at most 4% of what you pay in federal income taxes each year. However, expenditures for current and past military programs account for 53% of your federal income taxes.

Myth: Military Spending Creates Jobs

Fewer jobs are created through military spending than through civilian spending because military spending is capital intensive. For example, for every billion dollars, either 25,000 military jobs could be created or 47,000 health care jobs. Consequently, tax money spent to create military jobs means more unemployment.

Myth: The Military Provides Opportunities

Most military training is not useful in the civilian world. Besides, you don't need to join the military to learn how to peel potatoes, file, type, clean latrines, etc. In a recent survey, only 12% of men and 6% of women made any use of the military skills later in civilian jobs. Furthermore, unemployment for young male veterans is 31% higher than among non-veterans of the same age; women veterans face 58% higher unemployment.

The U.S. Commission of Civil Rights reported that discrimination in the military still haunts African-Americans, Latinos, and women. Most women report experiencing sexual harassment, and one in ten are sexually assaulted. Though a third of enlisted personnel are of color, only 13% of officers are of color.

Finally, the Pentagon always aggressively recruits the young, the poor, and the unskilled, because the military knows they have fewer job options, are more easily trained, and are less likely to resist orders to kill or be killed.

Myth: Without the Military, We'd be Enslaved

Following every war (until World War II) the U.S. essentially disbanded the military. Why is such a bloated military so "essential" now? Why does a country — flanked by two giant oceans and two friendly neighbors to the north and south — need a military at all? Who exactly is going to invade the U.S. or destroy our cities with nuclear weapons if we don't have a military?

No country even remotely comes close to the U.S. in military power. Yet what was gained by spending 14 trillion dollars — $14,000,000,000,000 —on the Pentagon (since WWII) if that meant millions of Americans went hungry, became homeless, died of curable diseases, remained illiterate, spent their lives as slaves to boring jobs? Relying on secrecy, violence, and militarism has other devastating consequences:

* A government that solves problems with guns, can expect its citizens will also.
* The largest military in history cannot protect Americans from terrorism. Such acts are likely to continue as long as the U.S. intervenes — militarily and economically — in other countries.
* In the name of "national security" governments lie to citizens about the need for more weapons, the every day dangers encountered by soldiers and military workers, casualties, battles won or lost, goals achieved, and so forth.
* Ultimately, the military exists to protect those with power, influence, and money here and abroad. It's those without who are made to suffer.

Our security depends more on a population that is healthy, confident, and hopeful about the future than it does on an enormous, saber-rattling military. By rejecting a foreign policy built on fear and intimidation, and instead using the military budget to rebuild American and improve the quality of our lives as well as those in developing countries, we would earn the respect of the world thus improving our security dramatically.

Myth: The Military Prevents War

The frequency and destructiveness of wars has increased dramatically since the end of WWII. The number of wars underway at any one time has risen from about five in the mid-1940s to about 30 in the 1990s. Following WWII, there have been 160 wars resulting in the deaths of 25 million people. Being well-armed has made it easier for the U.S. to resort to conflict. During this period, the U.S. used its military in 16 foreign conflicts involving the loss of 6 million lives, more than half of them civilian.

War Resisters League
339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012
212-228-0450 or <wrl@igc.apc.org>

Understanding the Current Prison Crisis

jenn bowman

Hi, my name is jenn bowman and I'm a third year political economy student attending evergreen. I'm also a black, working class, lesbian, activist dedicated to social change. Today I'm gonna talk about prisons, my work in them and how it is connected to you and the rest of society.

On Thursday April 8th and Friday April 9th you'll have the chance to learn more about the growing prison crisis.

My Wednesday evenings are not your typical nights spent doing homework, hanging out with friends or family or watching T.V. They are spent with a weekly forty-five minute trip to the Washington State Corrections Center in nearby Shelton where I participate in an educational seminar between Evergreen students and incarcerated students.

Some may question my work in aiding incarcerated people in gaining an education as I did at first, but as my work continues, I'm finding that many of the prisoners that I come in contact with are there because of the white supremacist, capitalist society that we live in. Many of the men that I have met at Shelton are working class. To me the criminalization of these men, people of color, and the working class/poor is what drives/drove them to prison in the first place. Eve Goldberg and Linda Evans state: "...most of the 'criminals' we lock up are poor people who commit nonviolent crimes out of economic need." By ignoring prisons and those inside of them we participate in the continued criminalization of marginalized people.

If you think about that quote you will realize that the majority of people in this country are working class and/or people of color. Maybe that's why 82% of men in prison are black and Latino. Maybe that's why slavery is made legal by Section 1. of the 13th amendment which states: Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except, as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

It is for this reason that I choose to participate in a program that allows people who have been and still are marginalized to have access to information and history that has not been accessible to them in the past based on the institutionalized racism, sexism, classism, etc. that pervades American society.

Speaking of sexism, I was recently lucky enough to have participated in a creative writing class at The Washington Corrections Center for Women in Gig Harbor. Unfortunately because the government wants to keep people in prison not educated, empowered or rehabilitated, regardless of what the media tells you, prisoners are not being rehabilitated. The real deal is that private industries are making hundreds of thousands of dollars off of this slave labor, the same way that sweatshops provide cheap wage labor. Goldberg and Evans state: "Prisoners do data entry for Chevron, make telephone reservations for TWA, raise hogs, shovel manure, make circuit boards, limousines, waterbeds, and lingerie for Victoria's Secret. All a fraction of the cost of free labor."

Anyway I won't be able to go back to Purdy for six months because the government wants to make volunteering as inaccessible as possible. The sexism exists in that men's prisons are way more accessible than women's prisons, thus making education and empowerment less attainable to incarcerated women. The women at Purdy were so inspirational to me. They were extremely creative and supportive in each other's creative expression. I was disheartened that so many people will not know these women and the work they are creating. In writing this article, I wanted to tell people on the outside that the 1.2 million men, women, and children in prison need to be recognized.

On Thursday April 8th and Friday April 9th you'll have the chance to learn more about the growing prison crisis. Three women from the Puget Sound area and one woman from San Francisco, will be speaking on a panel titled "Women Confront the Prison Crisis". Chrystos a native rights, poet and activist will speak about her work in California women's prisons; Carol Minugh Evergreen professor and native rights activist; Ida Robinson ex-political prisoner who started Families With a Future in San Francisco, and Ronica Mukergee from Seattle and Critical Resistance Activist. There will be a panel at **The Evergreen State College, April 8th at noon in the library lobby. For those that cannot make that date their will be a panel April 9th at 7:30 downtown, location to be announced. I hope that you will join me in furthering understanding of the current prison crisis. For more info: 866-6000 x6006.**

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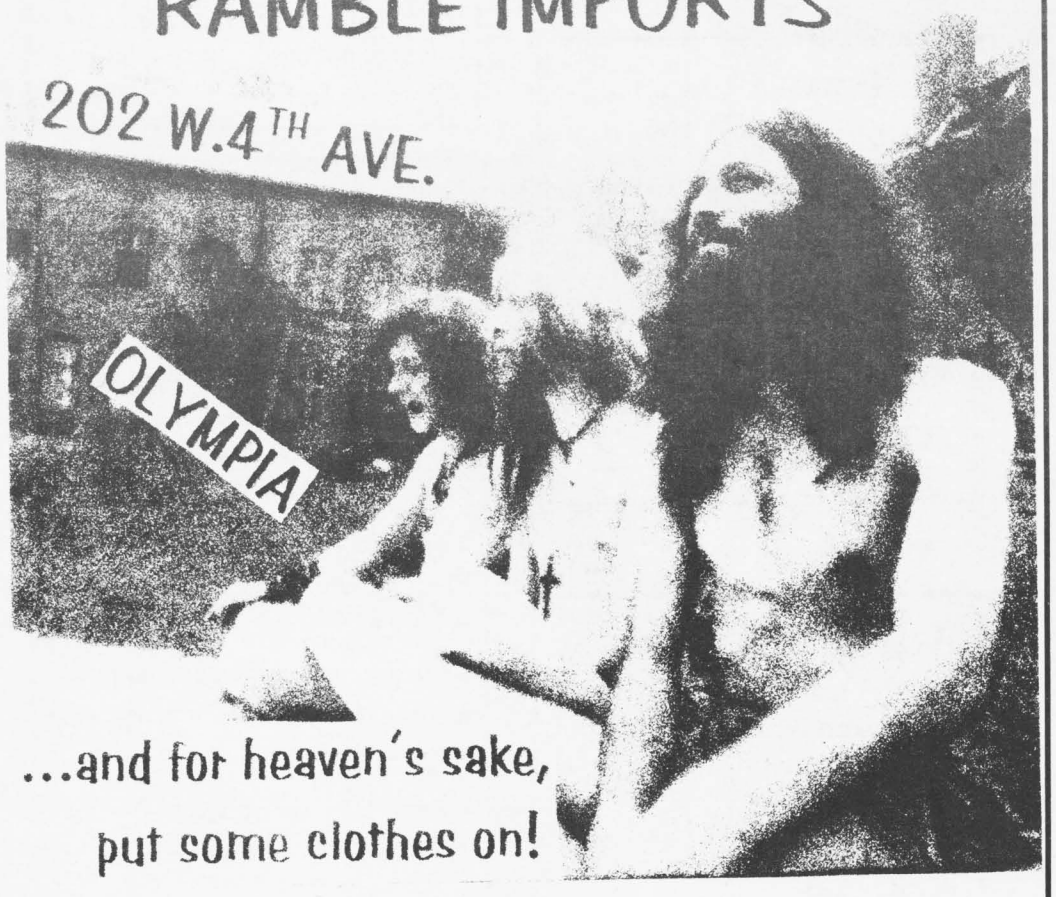

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US report on human rights fails to examine violations in own territory

Amnesty International

On 25 February, the US State Department will publish its annual report on human rights, addressing the unjustified killing or ill-treatment of people by police and other security forces in some 190 countries--similar incidents in New York, Illinois or California, however, will not be granted a mention.

"One could very well say that this year, like every other, there will be 50 entries missing from the State Department report: from Alabama to Wyoming," Amnesty International said, deploring the USA's hypocritical stance at not recognizing the extent to which human rights abuses are going unchecked in its own territory.

"The US government has a selective approach to human rights -- using international human rights standards as a yardstick by which to judge other countries, but consistently failing to apply those same standards at home."

"Furthermore, US government policies often lead to human rights being sacrificed for political, economic and military interests, both in US territory and abroad," the organization continued. "By providing weapons, security equipment and training to other countries, the USA is responsible for the same abuses it denounces in its State Department report."

According to Amnesty International, when it comes to human rights, the USA discriminates against countries and victims.

"The US government often criticizes countries it considers hostile, while ignoring abuses committed by its allies or failing to take action that would run counter to US interests. When it comes to victims, human rights violations committed in US territory are not even admitted as such."

Human rights violations in the USA are serious and persistent. Just in the past year, Amnesty International recorded regular reports of torture and ill-treatment including:

- the death of a prisoner after being strapped for hours to a restraint board,
- allegations of immigration detainees being beaten and tortured with electro-shock shields while held in four-point restraint, and
- the use of the remote control electro-shock stun belt in trials and prisoner transportation in well over 100 jurisdictions--including Louisiana, where stun belts have been used on low security HIV/AIDS inmates.

In US prisons and jails, physical and sexual abuse are endemic, and repressive control methods -- like electro-shock weapons or prolonged use of restraint chairs -- are increasingly being used. Inquiries into police brutality in some jurisdictions in the last decade--including Los Angeles, New York and Washington DC -- show a pattern of systematic abuses. The US Justice Department receives thousands of complaints every year, which many regard as just the tip of an iceberg. Those whose rights have been violated often receive financial compensation in out of court settlements -- which effectively means the tax payer paying for the authorities' right to abuse their power with impunity.

The USA is failing to meet even the minimum international standards regarding the use of the death penalty. Also, by executing ever increasing numbers of people, the country it is out of step with the international trend towards abolition.

International human rights standards demand the highest legal safeguards for all capital trials, seek to restrict the scope of the death penalty, see it as unacceptable punishment for the mentally ill, and forbid its use against juvenile offenders. Not only does the USA fail on all these counts, but early this month, the execution of Sean Sellers for crimes committed when he was a 16-year-old boy confirmed the USA as the world's leading executioner of child offenders.

Use of the death penalty in the USA has consistently shown to be racist and, as the authorities attempt to speed up the time between sentence and execution, the risk of killing the innocent is constantly increasing.

In terms of the treatment of asylum seekers, people seeking refuge in the USA from persecution in their own countries are increasingly locked up in detention and effectively treated like criminals.

"While the US State Department report on human rights serves a good purpose in reminding the international community of the need to remain vigilant about human rights protection, the USA itself should not be immune from international scrutiny," Amnesty International said.

"Victims of human rights abuses in the USA have the right not to be discriminated against. By failing to take a close look at home, the USA is doing just that," Amnesty International said.

"In addition to looking at the state of human rights abroad, it is high time for the USA to recognize this situation and put an end to it.

Amnesty International's on-going campaign on human rights in the USA was launched in October 1998. As part of the campaign, Amnesty International has been calling for the US to adopt and rigorously enforce a binding code of conduct, based on human rights, covering all transfers of military, security and police equipment, services and expertise.

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, WC1X 8DJ, London, United Kingdom

Victims of human rights abuses in the USA have the right not to be discriminated against. By failing to take a close look at home, the USA is doing just that.

Your Help Is Needed

Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generousity are urgently needed.

If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.

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Please donate:

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Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner-Olympia office at the Liberation Cafe above Bulldog News.

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SEE PAGE 2

Attention Prisoners

W.I.P. **seeks articles, artwork (black and white is best) from those in prison. Please send submissions to:**

Works In Progress,
PO Box 295,
Olympia WA 98507-0295

Books To Prisoner Page

A.C.L.U. Briefs

Miranda Warning

ACLU -In its February 8 decision in U.S. v. Dickerson, a three-judge panel of the Fourth Circuit ruled that suspects no longer have a right to the Miranda warning. By a 2-1 ruling, the judges held that a 1968 Congressional statute effectively overruled the Supreme Court's decision requiring the Miranda warnings.

1st Amendment

WASHINGTON -- The Supreme Court ruled that immigrants have no right to object to being targeted for deportation based on their association with a political group. In an astounding decision that reached an issue neither party had even briefed, the Court effectively denied to all immigrants in this country the same First Amendment rights that U.S. citizens enjoy.

The case arose out of the government's longstanding efforts to deport eight noncitizens for their political associations and activities. The noncitizens -- seven Palestinians and a Kenyan -- were arrested more than a decade ago by the INS and charged with being associated with a group that "advocates world communism," then an offense under the McCarran-Walter Act. From the outset, the government has admitted that none of the eight engaged in any criminal or terrorist activities, and has admitted that it singled them out for deportation based on their political ties, distribution of literature, communication with other members, and humanitarian aid fundraising.

Sexual Assault

DENVER--The A.C.L.U. of Colorado filed suit against the country's largest private extradition company on behalf of a female prisoner who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of a sexual assault by a company guard during a drive from Texas

The company, TransCor America, assigned an all-male crew for the extradition despite similar incidents, similar lawsuits, and a company policy that required the presence of at least one female guard.

Books to Prisoners on-going Events

- Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of Bulldog News. *Training takes 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime Bulldog is open.*
- **BTP Volunteer Potluck** - 3rd Sun. of the month (Apr 17th), 3 pm at 116 E. 4th Ave, Olympia
- Turn in Bayview and Ralph's receipts. B to P receives 1%. Please send to the address below.
- **Save UPC code from Western Family Products &** send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501

Rough Justice for Women Behind Bars

Amnesty International

" My feet were still shackled together, and I couldn't get my legs apart. The doctor called for the officer ... No one else could unlock the shackles, and my baby was coming ... Finally the officer came and unlocked the shackles from my ankles. My baby was born then." ("Maria Jones" describing how she gave birth while an inmate of Cook County Jail, Chicago, 1998)

The use of shackles on pregnant inmates is just one example of the cruelty and ill-treatment many women suffer in US jails and prisons, Amnesty International said today in a new report issued as part of its international campaign against human rights violations in the USA.

As well as the use of restraints on pregnant and sick prisoners, Amnesty International's report -- "Not part of my sentence"-- details human rights violations including sexual abuse, lack of medical care and lengthy periods of confinement in so-called super-maximum units.

Reports of rape and other forms of sexual abuse -- including sexually offensive language and male staff touching women's breasts and genitals during searches or watching them when they are naked -- are widespread in US prisons and jails.

"Cases of sexual abuse actually reported are probably only the tip of the iceberg as victims are often reluctant to complain for fear of not being believed or suffering retaliation," Amnesty International said.

"The overwhelming majority of complaints concern male staff, reflecting the fact that many guards and other prison employees are male," the organization added.

The number of women in US jails and prisons has been growing dramatically, largely as a result of the war on drugs. In 1997 the figure was at 138,000 -- a three-fold increase since 1985. This amounts to about 10 times the number of women prisoners in Western European countries, which combined have a female population the same size as the USA.

"Authorities around the USA have been spending large sums of money building new prisons and jails but have not provided adequate funds for the health, welfare and rehabilitation of the people they are locking up," Amnesty International said.

As the world celebrated International Women's Day on March 8th, Amnesty International is calling on US federal, state and local authorities to make a strong commitment to implement the measures required to effectively protect the safety, health and dignity of all women in custody.

The US has about 10 times the number of women prisoners in Western European countries, which combined have a female population the same size as the USA.

Concerns expressed in the report include:

Sexual abuse: rape of an inmate by staff is internationally recognized as a form of torture and violates US federal and state criminal laws, yet reports of rape and other forms of sexual abuse are common in US prisons and jails. Amnesty International is calling for female inmates to be supervised by female staff only, and for victims to be more effectively protected from retaliation if they report abuses.

Medical care: access to a doctor is often conditional on permission by non-medical staff, who may underestimate the seriousness of the case or be inclined not to believe inmates. In some cases, delays are reported to have had serious health consequences. In 1998 an inmate in an Arizona Jail wrote to Amnesty International reporting that she had lost her baby -- and almost bled to death -- after her call for urgent medical attention was left unheeded for hours. Amnesty International is urging that all women in custody have access to free and adequate medical care.

Mental health care: there are concerns about the use of psychotropic drugs and a reported lack of counselling. Amnesty International is calling for an inquiry into prison mental health services and for women suffering from severe mental illnesses to be transferred to mental health institutions.

Use of physical restraints on sick and pregnant women: handcuffs and shackles are often used on women both during transport and in hospital even if they do not have a history of violence or escape. In the case of pregnant women, restraints pose a serious health threat. Amnesty International is calling for the use of restraints to be limited to cases in which the inmates' conduct makes them necessary.

Super-maximum security units: some women appear to be sent to such units -- where conditions are particularly harsh -- for comparatively minor infractions. Some of the rules in those units -- such as the one requiring that prisoners be "in full view" all the time --violate the inmates' privacy and dignity, and their isolated nature can increase the opportunities for abuse.

© *Amnesty International*

ACLU Urges Caution on Juvenile Justice

ACLU--As members of the House of Representatives held hearings today on reforming our nation's juvenile justice system, the American Civil Liberties Union called on Congress not to let its zeal to appear tough on crime lead to slapdash "solutions" destined to fail.

"With juvenile crime declining for the fourth year in a row, now is not the time for radical changes that may eventually create more problems than they fix," said Rachel King, Legislative Counsel for the ACLU.

Among the topics addressed at the hearings before a Judiciary Committee panel was expanding prosecutors' power to move juveniles into the adult court system without judicial review, which is required under current law. The ACLU and other groups sharply criticize this proposed change, charging that prosecuting youths as adults increases the likelihood that they will commit another crime after their release.

As an example of the dangers of prosecutorial discretion, the ACLU pointed to the case of a Florida prosecutor who charged as an adult a mentally disabled 15-year-old who stole $2 for food. As a result the boy, Anthony Laster, was charged with strong-arm robbery, which is punishable by life in prison, and extortion, punishable by 30 years.

This year's debate on juvenile justice began earlier in the session with the introduction of legislation (S 254) by Senators Orrin Hatch, R-UT, Jeff Sessions, R-AL, and Mike DeWine, R-OH.

An ACLU review of the Sessions legislation has uncovered some troubling provisions:

- **It would reverse a century long practice of attempting to rehabilitate youthful offenders. Particularly troubling is a provision that would open juvenile court records, making them accessible to schools and future employers, effectively preventing any efforts at reform.**
- **It urges the states to prosecute children as young as 10-years-old as adults.**
- **It would remove the requirement that states receiving federal funds address disproportionate rates of minority confinement in detention facilities.**
- **It would lift important protections that keep juveniles from having contact with adult offenders. Current law requires complete "sight and sound separation." The changes proposed would weaken that requirement by allowing juveniles to come into "incidental contact" with adults. The legislation would also provide funding to the states to allow them to build "co-located facilities" that would house children in adult jails.**

© *American Civil Liberties Union, 1999*

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WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, April 23

6pm at Olympia Center Lobby

Proofreading Meeting

Tuesday, April 27th
7pm at the Olympia Library

WORKS IN PROGRESS:
PO Box 295 Olympia, WA 98507
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wip@olywa.net

(OCAD, continued)

for thousands of citizens. While the various procedures and cultural context for each of these models differ significantly, they all share a common, incredibly simple central idea. If the people are going to rule, it is the people themselves that must come together to make important community decisions. In other words, if what we want is genuine democracy, the people themselves actually must do democracy.

Now lets put this in a modern context. How do we get there from here? First, I want to emphasize from the outset, that we do not need to alter our current representative structures in the slightest. Because the public votes these people into office, they are beholden to the majority will. Our task is one of articulating the majority will into a concrete agenda (through a democratic process), and then holding elected representatives accountable for carrying it out. Once this is done, they will carry it out, or they will be voted out of office.

In other words, the problem does not lie so much within the existing structure, but in the lack of any structure filling the gap between the people and their representatives. We can think of this as a missing democratic "infrastructure", as important for the functioning of a community as any other type of infrastructure. If we can fill the gap with a genuine democratic infrastructure, which actually engages citizens in a democratic process, our political representatives will necessarily become subordinate to it. This is because, in the end, we vote these representatives into office.

So where do we begin? I think we should begin by embracing the simple core notion of what genuine democracy has always been, and then start building on it from there. This means we simply (not necessarily easily) need to gather all citizens (as many as we can) together to engage in a basic democratic process. That is, simply deliberate the issues, and then reach collective decisions on what we think is best for our community. The purpose should be very general, something like: To protect and improve the quality of life in our community. It must be open to all citizens, regardless of their politics. The name of the organization should have some indication of its purpose and political neutrality, something like: Olympia City Wide Citizens Association, Olympia Citizens Assembly, Olympia Town Hall Meeting, etc. It should meet in a politically neutral location. Chris Stegman suggested the City Council chambers. I think that would be ideal.

In discussing these ideas with others, I have encountered a fear of creating an organization which allows "hostile" forces to enter. That those with non-friendly agendas might seize control, and take it in a direction antagonistic to a progressive agenda. We must let go of these fears. We must not perceive the presence of others as a threat to our agenda, but as a chance to communicate with other human beings who have a different point of view. It is an opportunity to share the truth with them. We must put our faith in the power of the truth to persuade, and in the basic decency and integrity of the mainstream citizen.

If we cannot do this, then we cannot believe in democracy. We then become another one of the "elites" who share in common a disgust and disdain for the masses, for the "dangerous, ignorant mob." We might not be wealthy elites, but are instead intellectual elites, in competition with the wealthy elites for control of the state. We become the vanguard, waiting around for the collapse of the system, so that we can then vie for the reigns power, convinced that if we were the ones in charge, we would create utopia.

History has shown where that path leads. No, if we have any hope at all, democracy represents it. And the time to begin to build democracy is now, while a relative stability and prosperity remains. It is unlikely that democracy would take hold in the context of a collapsing economic and social order. In desperate, difficult times people do not behave rationally, as Nazi Germany clearly illustrates.

Let us imagine how genuine democracy might take hold from an initial, modest Olympia Citizens Assembly. The initial purpose of the Assembly would be to build a functioning model of direct, participatory democracy on the local level. Full membership would be open to all Olympia Citizens. Like the original New England town hall meeting, it would debate and vote on resolutions with the intent that such resolutions would become laws or policies. We should expect (though it won't necessarily happen, at first) our elected representative, on the City Council or elsewhere, to carry them out. For instance, the Assembly could pass a resolution on an impending trade bill before the US Congress. It would then send that resolution to our Congressperson and US senators. Likewise, the Assembly might pass resolutions directed at the Port of Olympia, Thurston County Commissioners, our state reps, etc.

The procedure for the Assembly would be some chosen democratic process involving the submission of resolutions, deliberation, followed by a vote. Later, as funding sources are identified, a phone/Internet voting system could be created. This would allow members to watch the Assembly on community television at home, and then vote by phone or Internet.

In the beginning, of course, the Olympia Citizens Assembly will be small (30-50 people) and will have only minimal influence over our political representatives. At this initial stage, members will acquire the deliberative democratic skills necessary to function efficiently as an instrument of self-government. The Assembly will provide an ongoing model (broadcast over community television) to the community of citizen democracy in action. It will also serve as a vehicle to unite the voices of those involved, and therefore increase the pressure that can be exerted on our political representatives.

Note that this quality of being an effective short term tool for advancing a group's agenda makes this model powerful. Once established, its continued success will not need to depend on participant's having a long term vision of what it might become, for it will effectively serve short term interests in advancing particular causes. The citizens that will be attracted initially will be those who are already politicized and currently engaged in some sort of political or social campaign. The Assembly will serve as one strategy groups can use to advance their agenda. They will bring their issues before the Assembly and seek passage of a resolution, thereby gaining exposure and support for their cause.

Over time, as more citizens become increasingly aware of the Assembly and the potential power it represents, it will grow. The primary impetus for its growth is the corruption of the current system, and its failure to honestly represent the needs and interests of citizens. Citizens will naturally be attracted to a model which appears as a more effective and honest means of self-government.

As the Assembly grows it will have an increasing influence on the current political structure, spurring even further growth. Other cities and towns will begin to copy our model, and these Assemblies can begin to federate with each other. At no point in this process will it be necessary to change in the slightest our current representative structures, for they will respond accordingly as the Assemblies gain in size and power.

In Olympia, I would estimate that at participation levels somewhere between 2000-4000 the Assembly would become the dominant political force in the city. These numbers are not inconceivable, especially if we are able to utilize community television and a phone/Internet voting system. At these numbers, it would acquire effective legislative power, for only council members willing to act on behalf of the Assembly will be politically viable.

At some point it is likely that the existing power structure will begin to perceive the emergence of numerous Assemblies as a threat, and will attempt to destroy them. By this time, however, the example will have been set. Because the model depends only on the exercise of our basic democratic rights to peaceably assemble, free speech, and our right to vote, there is little they can do. Any attempts made to deprive us of these rights will only serve to delegitimize these forces. Yet they will probably try, and our nation could face a constitutional crisis which would test the will of the majority to preserve democracy.

The possible attempt, and ultimate failure, of those attempting to preserve their positions of political dominance would accelerate the rate of transition. Political representatives which chose the wrong side would end their careers in disgrace, being replaced by those willing to respond to the new political power structure which is rooted in the local Assemblies.

Of course, once we begin, it is only speculation how the course of history will evolve from that point. Our focus should be primarily on the first steps. This has been part of the current work of Olympian's Concerned About Democracy (OCAD), and we are trying to get as many people involved in this initial process as possible.

We have currently advanced the idea of creating the Olympia Citizens Assembly as part of the Olympia Measure on Corporations and Democracy, envisioning the Assembly as a first step toward ending corporate dominance. The idea here is that the Assembly would have maximum effect if it were granted some sort of official government recognition. This would give it a neutral public status, ensuring the rights of all citizens to be equal members, and that it be run according to a democratic process. Of course we also want it to have control over its own proceedings, with the right to draft and amend its own bylaws, and elect its own officers (i.e. chair, secretary, steering committee members, etc).

Recently, I discovered that there already exists a legal framework for granting official recognition to citizens' groups. This is the Olympia Neighborhood Association Recognition and Notification Ordinance. This ordinance provides for the official recognition of neighborhood associations provided they are open to all persons (including absentee business owners and corporate entities) living within their boundaries, operate according to a democratic process, and submit their bylaws and annual meeting minutes to the city. Such officially recognized neighborhood associations have the right to draft their own bylaws and elect their own officers. The associations are then placed on the official map, the cities website, and are provided early notice of any proposed property development or land use proposals within or near their boundaries.

I have advanced the idea of gaining official recognition for the Assembly by asking the City Council to add an "Olympia Citizens Assembly" section to the existing neighborhood ordinance. The Assembly would be like a neighborhood association with the following exceptions: the boundaries would be the city limits, membership would be open only to natural person actually living in the city (excluding corporate entities and absentee property owners), and its concerns could include anything citizens felt effected our quality of life in the city of Olympia. Except for these exceptions, the Assembly would have the same rights and official status as a neighborhood association.

Alternatively, the Assembly could gain official recognition within the framework of the existing ordinance without asking the city to do anything. Cathy Butler, the city staffer overseeing neighborhood associations, says the city does not regulate boundaries, and a city-wide "neighborhood" association called the "Olympia Citizens Assembly" could be created within the framework of the existing ordinance.

What is the best way to proceed with this project? This will be decided at the upcoming OCAD general meetings. We invite all citizens to join us in this historic effort to bring genuine democracy to our community, and beyond. *(See Calendar listing)*

(Welfare, continued)

— we are the products. With things being different today it takes more than hard work to make ends meet. Poverty is not a respecter of persons, my reality could be yours someday if the conditions are right.

My journey started in 1981, I was considered middle\upper class with two children. I am now a survivor of a broken marriage caused by domestic violence. I wanted a better life for myself and my two boys. My choices and resources were limited. I was the first in my family to entered poverty. Once on this level it has been impossible to get out. It is like quick sand, the more you struggle to get out, the more it sucks you in. I went the full gamete in 18 years. I tried to raise my children with little help from anyone, gave up on life for a year, made a bad decision to marry again and then made a wise choice to get my college education. Like the Governor, I too believe in the importance of education. In these eighteen years there was one thing I was not and that was lazy. It has taken tenacity, intelligence, strict money management, and plain hard work to survive in this uncaring, unsympathetic, hopeless world. I am still in poverty but with an education I have one thing: HOPE. Hope that with my degree and hard work I have a chance at moving off government assistance. Although the Governor says that there is a surplus of jobs, the news reports say that there are not enough jobs to support a single mother with two children. I am entering the job market at age 43 with three boys at home. I am unable to work 40 hours because of personal physical needs and the needs of my children. 25-30 hours a week at this time will be a good place to start for me.

I am in one of those dark and lonely cracks. In my job search for a wage that I could survive on, it became apparent that in this world of technology I was not employable as a result of no prior experience and training. I was not able to qualify for WORK FOR TRAINING because I am not allowed to be on TANF or WORKFIRST due to the expectation of my next months child support even though my support has been irregular and I am income eligible. Sad thing is I had an employer willing to do job training. I did not qualify for job training funds because of being too educated. I made my own way and am finishing a three months volunteer job training position at an attorney's office while still on some government assistance. There are many cracks others like my self fall into. The gaps are too large and are in need of narrowing. The surplus moneys could provide programs to give us the short-term help needed to get off assistance.

Joanne Barker is a member of the Olympia chapter of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition.

(Graffiti, continued)

The Orca Whales on Washington Street was done as graffiti art, but it is doubtful that the ODA will be painting over it. The ODA has brought us "ArtsWalk" and "Music in the Park". What is the community to make of their banning of the artistic expression of youth through the cultural medium that is graffiti on the eve of "ArtsWalk '99"? Is it up to the ODA to decide what is art and what is not? As the city's most persistent lobbyist, the ODA (made up of primarily if not exclusively of business owners) has been involved in, if not initiators of such ordinances as No Sitting on the Sidewalk and No Skateboarding. For a chronology of Olympia's history of recent attacks against the youth and homeless see the chart at the end of this article. Through their efforts and support the ODA is increasingly defining what is appropriate use of public space in their interest. Their actions erode the civil rights of others while increasing attention to their interests: to attract consumers (those with disposable income) who are much wealthier than youth and the homeless. Thus the relationship of crime to poverty is obscured.

The constant negative energy the ODA spends on the downtown (by consistently stating how dangerous the downtown area is and offering up controversial solutions -- one after another) detracts from their standing as a responsible community member. If the ODA would spend more positive energy finding ways to bring together the different aspects and people of our society as well as supporting others who are doing so, Olympia could be truly a model city. It took this city over ten years to come up with a productive outlet for skateboarders after illegalizing it. A simple start would be involving all aspects of the community in decisions rather than just a handful of either property owners or property-identifying people. It's going to take a lot more to bridge the differences that already exist. The banning of the free walls is the wrong way to go about it. So in the meantime the criminalization of a generation continues. . .and the next generation too.

The Capital Theater's free wall will apparently reopen some time in the future. As for the other walls, it is yet to be stated. They will certainly stay shut down if the community stays quiet about it.

What follows is the text of flyers made by PENG:

Tagging and other forms of graffiti are the expressions of youth and artists. Many of us feel like we have little control over our lives and little to no input in decision-making processes that affect us. Chained to work, imprisoned by schools, beholden to landlords and cops and bureaucrats, we say: "Down with the dictatorship of boredom. The last thing we want to see is Olympia turned into a gentrified shopping mall. The city is our mirror, and we in turn want to see ourselves in it, not some contrived image of the Happy Consumer. Businesses which support public art have been under intense pressure from the business association to comply with this mandate. One business was threatened with eviction or rent doubling if they did not paint over their free wall.

The ODA sees graffiti as ugly and degenerate to the downtown area. While some graffiti can be unsightly, much graffiti is aesthetically pleasing as an art form, and functions as a forum for political discourse that is accessible to all (unlike our government). Free walls encourage graffiti writers to be artistic and creative, as they can paint there without the threat of arrest or harassment.

If the Olympia Business Association and their law enforcement friends really wanted to 'clean up' downtown and make it a more attractive place for people to spend their hard-earned money, they would avoid mean-spirited campaigns like this and instead:

1. Encourage and fight for less sprawl development on the outskirts of town

2. Build more high-density housing downtown. combine residential and retail development

3. Allow for the general diversification of the streets downtown. Teenagers, homeless people, and insurgents cannot simply be made to disappear

4. Fund the painting of more murals!

5. Help establish more parks. Convert vacant lots into green space!

6. Support more bike lanes. Create pedestrian-friendly zones

. . . and the list goes on.

Usually, when cities have illegal graffiti problems, they create free walls to allow artists a legal place for expression. This plan is proactive, as these cities realize that people have the right to public space. The creation of free walls always reduces the illegal graffiti in a city. So, if the problem in Olympia is the flourishing illegal graffiti scene, they should be giving writers more free space, not eliminating them altogether.

Outlawing graffiti completely from Olympia will only intensify the problem of illegal graffiti. Having no space to create art legally, artists will be forced to expand their energies in areas where their art may not be appreciated. We see the suppression of creativity as an assault on our basic freedom. Suppression only encourages further resistance. Graffiti will not disappear. . . it's not going anywhere, except where you don't want it to go!

City of Olympia and Olympia Downtown Association's Anti-Youth and Anti-Homeless Chronology

1986	-	Criminalization of Skateboarding Downtown	- Targetted at Youth
1987	-	Outlawing of Teen Dance Clubs	- Targetted at Youth
1990	-	Criminalization of Loud Car Stereos	- Targetted at Youth
1991	-	Outlawing of Cruising	- Targetted at Youth
1993	-	Criminalization of "Aggressive Panhandling"	- Targetted at Youth and Homeless
1994/5	-	Attempted Stop of Transitional Housing	- Targetted at Homeless
1995	-	Proposed Criminalization of Car Camping	- Targetted at Homeless
1995	-	Proposed Outlawing of Fortified Wine	- Targetted at Homeless
1996	-	Outlawing of OAPP Needle Exchange	- Targetted at Drug Users, some of whom are youth.
1996/7	-	Attempted Banning of Sitting on the Sidewalk	- Targetted at Youth and Homeless
Present	-	Criminalization of Graffiti	- Targetted at Youth

Briefs continued

can't catch all the kids in this safety net (YUP!), but we are catching a lot of them. It really is amazing how a young person's self esteem escalates when they have a police officer as a "friend"!

Support and Party with the Youth in the Community!

The Mom's House/YUP!
Community Fundraising Campaign
3rd Annual Party & Auction
Saturday, May 8, 1999
Puget Sound High School in Lacey

After the auction we'll have a DJ, treats, and dancing till midnight

To donate items to the auction or to RSVP your attendance (Adults $20 each or two for $35, teens $10) or for more information and to get involved call 456-0078.

Dance O' Dance

Open invitation from "Dance O' Dance" to any age, any style dancers to appear LIVE on public-access television in Thurston county. Dancers should arrive at TCTV studio "A", 440 Yauger way, off Mud Bay, by 2PM for instructions, warm-ups, & refreshments.

This hour-long program by and for dancers is taped on the fourth Wednesday of each month and re-runs every Wednesday at 4pm & Friday at 10pm on channel 29. "Dance O' Dance" is in its fourth season on TCTV.

Upcoming shows will be on April 28th, May 26th, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, & September 22nd.

Contact the producer for more details: Justin B. Wright, 753-9665, or e-mail <justinb@writeme.com>

Enterprise for Equity

Enterprise for Equity is offering FREE small business training courses for individuals whose income is at or below: $14,904 for a single person and $30,444 for a family of four. Anyone interested in learning more about how to start a small business, please call Mary Coacher (360) 357-9220.

Mary Heron Dyer

Sunday, April 11 at 2pm
First United Methodist Church
1224 Legion Way, Olympia

Author of Year of Jubilee, a Guidebook for Women Reinventing Their Lives, will be talking on changing your stance and claiming a full life. Mary's journey has included leaving a 20-year marriage to come out as a lesbian, working with victims of domestic violence, counseling, writing and finally starting her own landscaping business. "Creating the patterns of our own lives is our greatest responsibility — and our greatest gift."

Presented by Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. PFLAG is looking for hotline operators. For more information call 866-0511.

Cinco de Mayo

Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo with us through the music of 'Alma'. 'Alma' is an all-acoustic ensemble that brings to life the Chicano/Latino experience through musical presentations using styles from Mexican, Latin American, and Afro-Cuban cultures. They will be performing 'Chicano: 500 Years of Struggle', a performance which tells the story of a people's quest for freedom. From the Conquest to the plight of farmworkers to the Zapatistas in Chiapas, 'Alma' communicates a powerful message of resistance and hope.

They will be performing on Tuesday, May 4 at 8pm in the Longhouse of the Evergreen State College. Also, Wednesday, May 5, you're invited to Evergreen's campus at noon to enjoy the rich sounds of local musical group 'Ocho Pies' in a continued celebration of Cinco de Mayo. Watch for flyers describing more Cinco de Mayo events. Events sponsored by LASO and MEChA of the Evergreen State College.

Mother's Day Teach-In

The Olympia chapter of the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition will hold a community teach-in and celebration on Saturday, May 8th, from 11am until 2pm. The purpose of the teach-in is to bring people together to talk about the political causes of poverty and to celebrate the unpaid work that we all do to maintain our families and our community.

Why are people in the Olympia-area and throughout the world unable to meet their basic needs? Is poverty a natural part of our society, or does is it result from the decisions of government officials? If poverty does have political causes, how should the community respond?

The teach-in will consist of several short presentations, small group discussions and workshops, and a final large group discussion. We hope to bring together a large, diverse group and to make the teach-in as participatory as possible-our goal is to encourage people to work together to understand the situations they face and to figure out how to respond. The teach-in will include lunch, and there will be childcare available to everyone who attends. We are still planning the day, and we would like to plan activities that include both parents and their children. We are still seeking a location for the teach-in; we are hoping that it will be held at a downtown church.

The Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition is a group of more than 4000 welfare recipients, other low-income people, and allies with several chapters around western Washington. It organizes to help people share resources and information, to break down the feeling of isolation that low-income people face, and to change the policies of state agencies and of the government in ways that promote social and economic justice. If you have any questions or would like to help plan the teach-in, please call us at (360)352-9716, or email us at wrocoly@juno.com. Our office is in the First Christian Church at 7th and Franklin Streets in Olympia, near the Timberland Library.

CHILDREN

by Frank Hoffman

You are walking through a playground, in a park, chatting with a friend.

The children are sliding down slides, teetering on see saws.

Laughing, giggling. Sometimes crying and as quickly, not.

They make us glad. Whoever's children they are.

They are our children.

The children in Kosovo and Somalia and Iraq.

The poor children, of all the colors here in America.

What do we owe them?

A moment of silence?

A short prayer?

Peace?

Hope?

Love?

And how do we do this today, how do we save the children, our future? We stop what we are doing and ask this.

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE!

SEE PAGE 2

1 Don't Ban Graffiti & Organizing For Democracy

4 Along the Color Line
Millions For Mumia

5 AUTOcratic Trickle Down Benefit

7 Book Reviews
Martinez & Davis

8 El Salvador & Central America

Current Prison Crisis

Women Behind Bars

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia, WA 98507

1980s ROLLERSKATE
THURS. APRIL 15
8:30-10:30 PM
SKATELAND on S. Bay Rd.

* Reagan impersonation?
* photo booth
* snack bar
* 80s trivia
* record giveaways

$5 or $7 sliding scale includes skates!

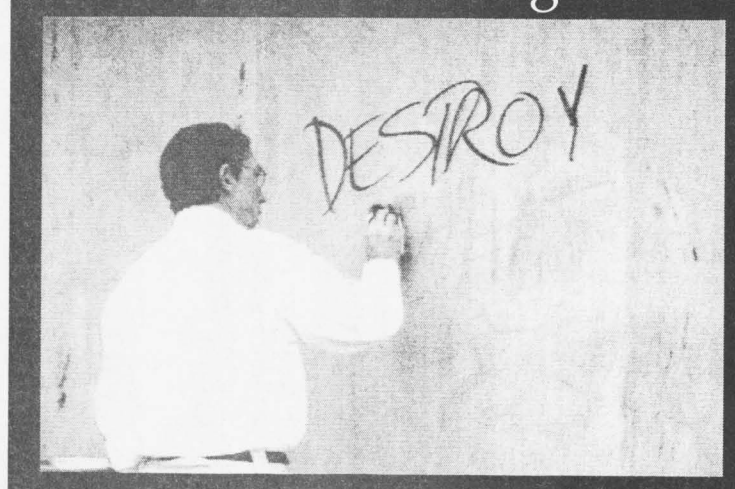
info? 705-2726

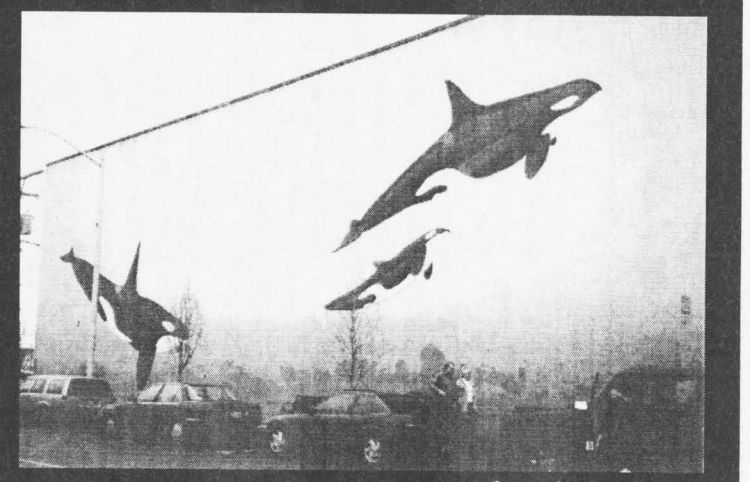
A benefit for Works In Progress newspaper & Radical Alternative Media Project

WORKS IN PROGRESS

APRIL 1999 THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION FREE

The Price of Doing Business vs. The Value of Free Art





photos by Pat Tassoni